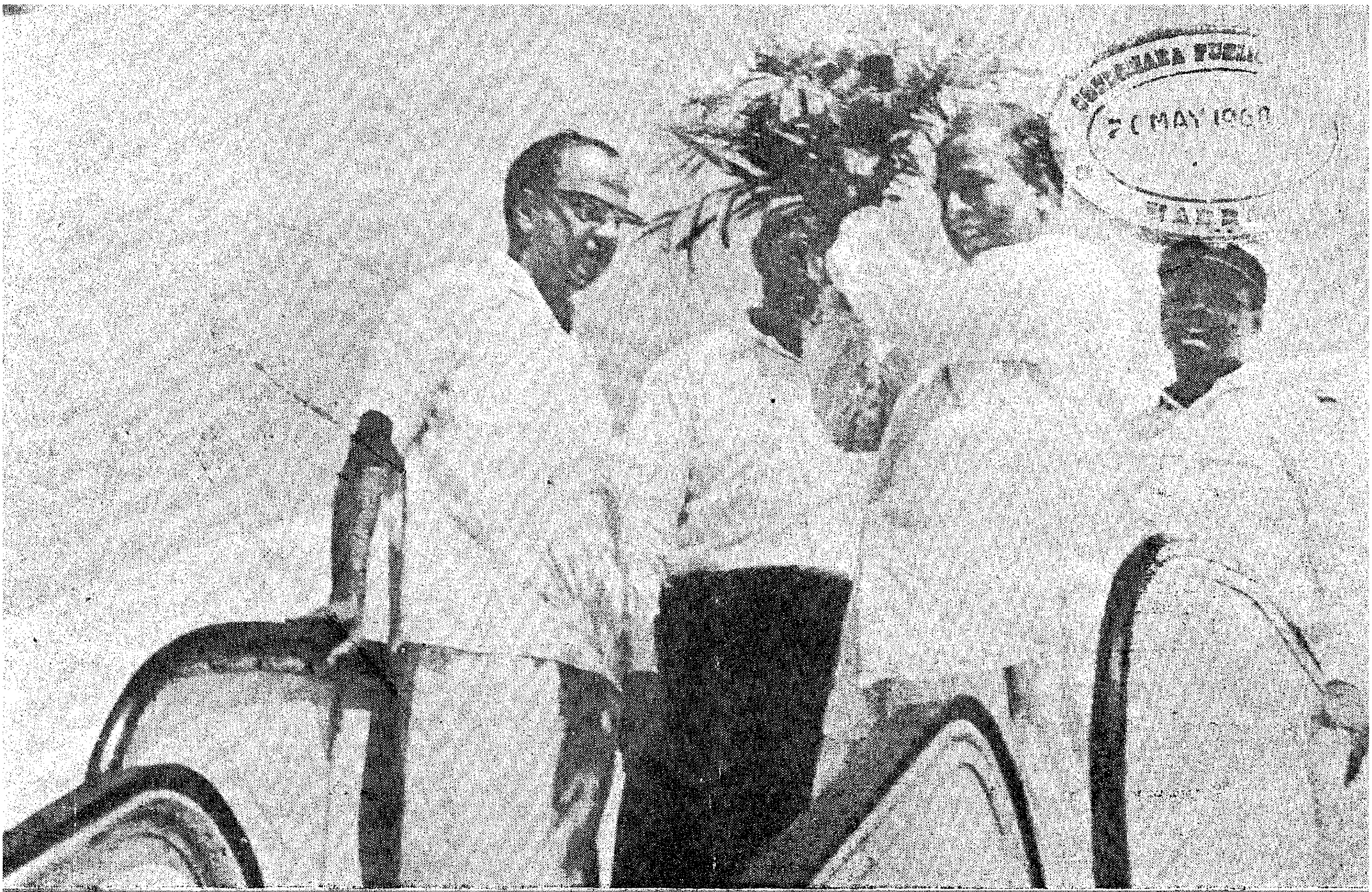

MADRAS INFORMATION

APRIL 1968 PRICE 20 PAISE

SMASH IT UP

If a natural choice between drunkenness and sobriety were possible in our civilisation, I should have the people free to choose. But when I see enormous capitalist organization on pushing drink under the people's noses at every corner, and pocketing the price whilst leaving me and others to pay the colossal damages then I am prepared to smash that organization and make it as easy for a poor man to be sober if he wants as it is for his dog.

The trade proposals are a sign and a portent but that is all. Ever since I have been alive, the brewers have been going to reform the public house. They have never done so because if they did there would no longer be any public houses.

—G. BERNARD SHAW

[library stamp]

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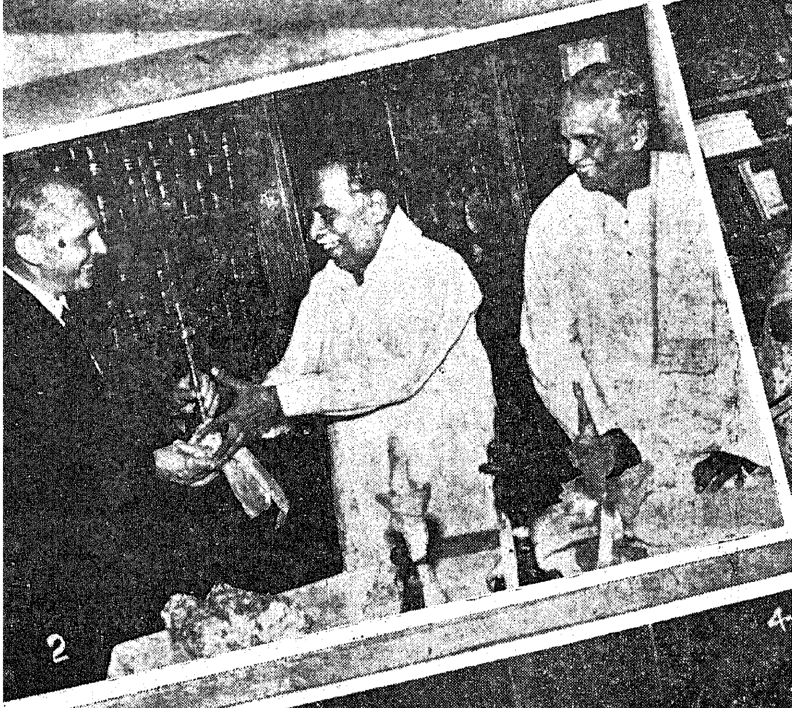
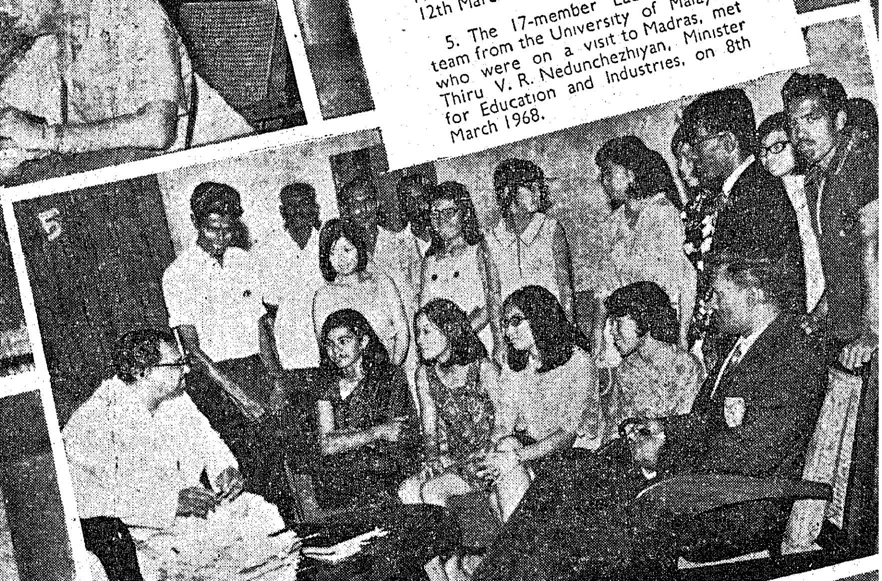
THIS MONTH'S COVER

Thiru C. N. Annadurai, Chief Minister greeting the vast gathering at the Meenambakkam Airport before his departure to U.S.A.

V.I.Ps in the city





1. Thirumathi Sathiavani Muthu, Minister for Harijan Welfare and Information, received Thiru V. V. Giri, Vice-President of India, on his arrival at Meenambakkam Airport, Madras on 24th March 1968

2. Thiru C. N. Annadurai, Chief Minister of Tamilnad is presenting a Kuthu Vilakku to Senator Henry Clare, Leader of the French Team of Expert Fishermen, on 13th March 1968 before their departure on the completion of the Doris Project experiment. The Minister for Agriculture, Thiru A. Govindasamy is also in the picture.

3. Dr. Hitschmanova, Director, Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, met the Minister for Harijan Welfare and Information on 23rd March 1968.

4. Thiru Rajkumar Bhanu Pratab Singh, Minister for Tribal Welfare, Madhya Pradesh, met the Minister for Harijan Welfare and Information on 12th March 1968.

5. The 17-member Ladies Hockey team from the University of Malaysia, who were on a visit to Madras, met Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Education and Industries, on 8th March 1968.

THE POLICE and their duties

SARDAR UJJAL SINGH
Governor of Madras

Speech delivered at the Madras Police Medal Parade on 29th December 1967

It gives me great pleasure to meet you all at this parade, especially those who, by acts of gallantry, meritorious and dedicated service, have distinguished themselves in the discharge of their duties. I offer my warm felicitations to all the recipients of the awards on the public recognition they have deservedly won for themselves. I find one award has been posthumously made and it is a matter for sorrow that the recipient is not in our midst today to feel the glow of honour.

I have witnessed an impressive parade and I would like to congratulate you on your smart turn out. Devotion to duty is the hall mark of the Police Force. The citations in respect of the recipients of the awards indicate how they have earned their well-deserved recognition by a high sense of duty. This should serve as a good incentive to others to emulate their example. It is gratifying to find that the Madras Police which has established great reputation for efficiency, continues to maintain its high traditions. I congratulate all officers and men on this.

Responsibilities of Police

The responsibilities of the Police are many and varied. In November last year (1966) the Police rendered effective help to the victims of the cyclone in parts of the State. This year (1967) is noteworthy for the General Elections held throughout the country. So far as Madras State is concerned, the elections were smoothly held and officers and men of the Police deserve our gratitude and admiration for their contribution to the impartial andpeaceful conduct of elections. Soon after the General Elections, mysterious and disastrous fires broke out in slums in South Madras. This caused a good deal of anxiety to the authorities and the Police. It was a testing time for all ranks in handling the situation, and although complaints of complacency were made in the beginning, I am glad to say that prompt action was taken to restore confidence.

It is a matter for satisfaction that on the whole the police-public relationship has been well maintained. The Village Vigilance Committees have been of some assistance to the Police in this regard. The Boys' Clubs, the Home Guards, the Public Relations Office in Madras City, the maintenance of Children's Traffic Park in the compound of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic and Licensing, Madras, the observance of traffic courtesy weeks, the periodical association of students in Traffic regulations, police stalls in exhibitions and periodical conferences with the representatives of the press, have also helped to foster police-public relationship.

Crime Investigation

As regards crime, there has been a slight increase of 1·1 per cent in the volume of crime against property, up to the end of September 1967 over the figures for the corresponding period of 1966. Reported cases have also been higher than in many of the other States in India. Perhaps there is comparatively unrestricted registration of crime in this State which accounts for higher crime incidence. In any case, effective investigation and apprehending of criminals can greatly help in reducing crime. I am glad that the judicious use of preventive sections of law, effective surveillance over known bad characters and sustained drive against receivers of stolen goods has served to keep the criminals under control. It is essential that the detection of offences should be maintained at a high level and scientific methods should be availed of in an increasing measure. It is worthy of note that we have the needed equipment and trained staff for the purpose and the the intensive training given to officers and the institution of a Diploma Course by the University of Madras in Criminology and Forensic Science steadily tone up the quality of investigation. I am happy to note that the Madras State did well last year in competitive events at all-India level involving theory and practice in legal and scientific aspects of crime investigation.

Maintenance of Law and Order is the supreme responsibility of any Government and the prime duty of the Police is to see that there is no breach of the peace The Police have to discharge their duties in this regard impartially and fearlessly with firmness and tact. No room should be given for any suspicion to arise in the public mind that the Police failed to act when their assistance was imperatively sought or that they left innocent and law-abiding people unprotected in case of trouble and violence. Causing wanton damage to public and private property is the worst crime against society and the nation. Anti-social elements are enemies of a well-ordered community of people. It does not at all redound to the credit of the Police if such elements are allowed without check to cause destruction of public property and dislocate and damage public undertakings meant for the benefit of the people as a whole. Police investigations should be prompt and complete and the culprits have to be apprehended and brought to book.

It is good that the Home Guard continue to assist the Police. Special mention must be made of the good work done by them during the cricket test match early this year, the general elections in the State and the slum fire incidents in the City.

The increase in the volume of traffic on the roads and highways has thrown additional burden on the Police. I am glad to note that a scheme costing Rs. 50 lakhs for effecting traffic improvements in the City for the next five years, has been prepared. I have noted with satisfaction the improvements that have been made recently for the safety of pedestrians. The Traffic wing of the Police have to make determined efforts to reduce road accidents.

The Madras Police Benevolent Fund and the State Police Families-Welfare Organisation, I am glad to note, continue to do good work for the improvement of the economic conditions of the families of policemen. I congratulate the Madras State Police teams on the creditable part they played in all India sports events.

In conclusion, I would like to remind you that it is a high sense of duty, integrity, discipline and spirit of true public service that will enhance the prestige of the Police Force and ultimately help in building up a Welfare State.

Loans for Sinking New Wells and Purchases of Pump Sets

The Government have hitherto been extending loans with subsidy to ryots for sinking of new open wells under the New Well Subsidy Scheme. Loans (without subsidy) were being given for the hire purchase of oil engines and motor pumpsets. The Reserve Bank of India, the Life Insurance Corporation and Commercial Banks are now coming forward to support agricultural production programme in a big way. Assistance from these sources will however be available only to the co-operative sector. With a view to getting the assistance available from institutional sources of finance, the Government have, as a matter of policy, decided that new loans for these two purposes should be given wholly by the Land Mortgage Banks. This decision was announced by the Chief Minister in his speech presenting the budget. Thus with effect from 1-4-1968, the issue of new loans directly by Government under the New Well Subsidy Scheme and for the hire purchase of oil engine and motor pumpsets will stop and all loans for sinking of new open wells and for the installation of oil engine and motor pumpsets will be made available to ryots only through Land Mortgage Banks. The Agro-Industries Corporation is also expected to supplement the efforts of the Land Mortgage Banks, as far as pumpsets are concerned.

Until further orders, the staff in Blocks and the Revenue Department will continue to receive applications for loans for these two purposes as before, enquire into them and forward the processed applications to the Land Mortgage Banks and the Land Mortgage Banks will sanction loans to ryots direct. The loans given by Land Mortgage Banks for sinking of new wells will be eligible for the usual subsidy of 25 per cent of the value of the work done subject to a maximum of Rs. 500 (Rupees five hundred).

The allotment of funds made in the budget under the New Well Subsidy Scheme for 1968-69 will be utilised only for sanction of second and further instalments of loans in respect of wells for which first instalment had already been sanctioned prior to 31-3-1968. Thus, those who have already been given the first instalment will, if they are eligible, be able to get the second and further instalments as hitherto.

TAMILNAD in history

In the historical map of India the Tamil country has a pride of place. As one of the earliest habitats of man, it has a hoary antiquity. Archaeological explorations and excavations have revealed the continuity of civilized life in this region eversince palaeolithic period. It has been found that the palaeolithic man of Tamilnad lived in the region around Madras. The discovery of microlithic tools in the Tirunelveli district establishes that his successor of the mesolithic age lived in that area. Traces of the neolithic man who came next after him are to be found in different parts of the Tamil country. Unlike his predecessors who were food gatherers, he was a food producer with a knowledge of the use of metals like bronze, copper and later, iron. The description of India as an ' ethnological museum ' is in a restricted sense applicable to Tamilnad also in whose racial texture one finds the blending of such elements as Negroid, Proto-Austroloid, Proto-Mediterranean, Alpine, Armenoid and Nordic.

The really historical period of Tamilnad begins with the fourth century B.C. The Tamilnad of that period, known as Tamilagam, comprised the region between the Vengadam hill in the north, Cape Comorin in the south and the two seas on the east and west. Our knowledge of the history of this region prior to the Christian era is very vague. The references to the Pandya country in a scholium of Katyayana on Panini and in the works of Megasthenes and Kautilya are the earliest available data. In the second and thirteenth Rock Edicts of Asoka, we hear of the southern kingdoms, besides Ceylon—the Cholas, Pandyas, Satiyaputa, Keralaputra and Tambaraparani. Of these, the Pandya monarchy was in the extreme south and included the modern districts of Tirunelveli, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and South Travancore. It had Madurai on the banks of Vaigai as its capital and Korkai and Saliyur on the Tamparaparani as ports. The Chola kingdom which comprised the region between the two Vellar rivers, included the present Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli districts and had Uraiyur in the suburb of the modern Tiruchirappalli Town, as capital and Puhar as port. The Chera kingdom, with Vanji as capital, and Tondi and Musiri as ports, was lying on the western coastal strip. The real identity of the ' Satiyaputa ' of Asokan inscriptions is uncertain ; the usually accepted view is that they were the same as the Adigaiman chiefs of Tagadur.

The early Sangam classics throw a flood of light on the political institutions, social and economic life of the people and the religious observances prevalent in the early centuries of the Christian era. But, in them, accounts of political history are very meagre and it is not until the rise of the Pallavas of Kanchi that we rise from the twilight of vague historical references to the limelight of recorded history.

The Pallavas appear to have held supremacy in the Tondaimandalam and the present southern districts of Andhra Pradesh from at least about the second quarter of the fourth century A.D. But all their records, until the reign of Simhavarman, grandfather of Mahendravarman I (610—630 A.D.), are in Sanskrit and not Tamil. It is in the Pallankovil copperplate grant of Simhavarman that we come across the first instance of Tamil being used for Pallava official records. However, the recent interpretations of the Saka-type of silver coins issued by some Satavahana rulers have shown that Tamil, along with Prakrit, was once extensively used as far north as modern Maharashtra. It is very likely that future researches in this regard will throw more and welcome light, not only on the early history of the southern dynasties, but also on the wider nature of the area under the linguistic and cultural hegemony of Tamil.

The history of the Pallavas from the earliest known ruler, Simhavarman of the Mancikallu stone inscription, to Simhavarman, father of Simhavisnu, is until now a tentative pedigree of rulers. No two scholars agree either on their genealogy or on chronology. But their history from about the end of the sixth century can be reconstructed largely with the aid of their copper-plate charters and lithic records. Mahendravarman I, the first in this well-known list of Pallava rulers, is taken to be the king in whose reign rock-architecture in the Tamil country was initiated. His son and successor, Narasimhavarman I, was the famous conqueror of Vatapi and the author of most of the monuments at Mahabalipuram. Rajasimha Narasimhavarman II was another great ruler of the dynasty, who built the grand structural edifices of the Kailasanatha at Kanchipuram and the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram. The next important ruler of the dynasty was Nandivarman Pallavamalla, a prince of a collateral branch, who ascended the throne even as a young boy and had a long reign of about sixty-five years. The Pallava

tail-ender was Aparajita, in whose reign the Cholas under Vijayalaya and Aditya asserted themselves in the Thanjavur area.

Under Aditya (871—907 A.D.) and Parantaka (907—955 A.D.), the Chola kingdom expanded in the north, and the entire Tondaimandalam region was absorbed in its fold. Under the illustrious Rajaraja, the Chola kingdom became what may not be incorrectly termed as 'the Chola Empire'. Besides the extension of the Peripheries of the kingdom, an active commercial, cultural and, to a lesser extent, also political-contact with South-east Asian kingdoms was maintained. Under Kulottunga I, the Chola and Chalukya kingdoms were merged under a single banner, but, in the following centuries, the kingdom shrunk in size under weak hands.

The rise of the Pallavas in the late sixth century in the Tondaimandalam synchronised with the ushering in of a new era in the history of the extreme South. The Pandyas of the Sangam age, whose supremacy was effectively overshadowed by the Kalabhras for nearly three centuries, redeemed themselves and established their power at Madurai. Some of the early rulers of the dynasty were Sendan, Arikesari Maravarman, Koccadaiyan, Rajasimha, Nedunjadaiyan, Srivallabha, etc. The increasing power of the Cholas in the north inevitably eclipsed the Pandyas, though they were occasionally raising their heads. Ultimately they established a second, if short-lived kingdom. History knows also of such minor dynastics like the Banas and Kadambas, Muttaraiyars and other chiefs, who played a secondary role in the political history and whose political loyalties often changed with the exigencies of time.

South India received a rude shock by reason of frequent Muslim raids from the time of Malik Kafur in the early years of the fourteenth century. Though a Muslim Sultanate was established at Madurai in 1334 A.D. and Hindu institutions suffered considerably, it is in the South that one finds to day the pristine Hindu culture ; and this, in no small measure, was due to the emergence of the Vijayanagar dynasty, which offered effective resistance to aggressive Islam and encourage the progress of everything that was cherished by the Hindus. With the fall of the Vijayanagar kingdom, the Nayak feudatories rose into prominance in Madurai, Ginji and Thanjavur. The last place was conquered by the Marathas in 1676 and was under their authority till 1800, when the British took over. In the eighteenth century, the European powers, who had come to South India as commercial people, were struggling with one another to establish themselves in the region. The British overcame their rivals, the Dutch and the French, and ultimately entrenched themselves in the region. The Nawabs of the Carnatic, who also appeared on the political horizon in the eighteenth century, sought their protection and handed over to them little by little the administration of the Carnatic and in 1801, it completely went into their hands. Tamilnad became a part of the Madras Province.

Through out the successive historical periods, the Tamil country has contributed to the cultural heritage of India. In fact, her history and institutions are inextricably intertwined with those of the whole country, notwithstanding some of their individualistic features which mark them as distinct. The ancient Tamil genius has been profoundly and succinctly expressed in literature and learning, art and architecture, besides administrative institutions and philosophy. The present-day Panchayat Raj can be traced back to the concept of village autonomy of ancient times. The conduct of election to village assemblies, gleaned from Uttiramerur inscriptions, is an eloquent testimony to enlightened political practices during the period of the Cholas. We hear in inscriptions of educational institutions at Kanchi, Ennayiram and Bahur, which were veritable, if less known, universities of their own kind.

It is indeed significant that two of the greatest philosophers and reformers in Hinduism, Sankara and Ramanuja hailed from the South. The bhakti movement in this region, which saw its beginning in the seventh century and ran its course through the twin streams of Saivaism and Vaisnavism, produced a large volume of religious literature, ranging from the ecstatic hymns of devotional poetry of the Nayanmars and Alwars to recondite philosophical works, both in Tamil and Sanskrit, which it is not possible to list here.

The greatest contribution of Tamilnad to Indian and world thought and culture alike is the Tirukkural of Valluvar. This work, written in the 'Augustan Age' of Tamil literature, incorporates in small couplets, among other things, the best ethical codes to be adopted in life.

In the field of art, the inner creative urge of the Tamils has found ample expression in architecture and sculpture, painting and music. The imposing tower in the temple complex, which should not be confused with the superstructure over the sanctum sanctorum, is a speciality of South India, particularly Tamilnad. The best age of Tamil sculpture was the period between the middle of the ninth to the end of the eleventh centuries and productions of this phase are found in numerous temples, built during the period throughout the Tamil country. In the art of metal casting, which rose to great prominence under the Cholas, the Tamil sthapatis attained much technical perfection that is really superb.

More than all, it must be recognised that Tamilnad was second to none in maintaining a harmonious liason with different countries and varying cultures and assimilating the best among them. The eternal universal outlook of Tamilagam is best expressed in the old maxim '*yadum ure yavarum kelir*'. It can be asserted without fear of contradiction that the entire history of Tamilnad, covering over nearly two thousand years in time-scale, bears witness to this claim—*Reproduced from the World Tamil Conference Souenir.*

Side Lights on siddhars

THIRU D. NATARAJAN, M.A., DIP. ANTHROP.,
Ford Found, Res. Trg. Cert. (Madras), Compiler, District Gazetteers, Madras-8.

"Worship thou the Light of the Universe; who is One;
Who made the world in a moment, and placed good men in it;
Who afterwards himself dawned upon the earth as a guru;
Who, without wife or family, as a hermit performed austerities;
Who appointing loving sages (siddhars) to succeed him,
Departed again into heaven :—worship Him."

—(*Agattiyar, Gnanam Nuru*).

Tamilnad has been a land which has witnessed a continual and continued succession of mystics. It could count with pride a number of glorious Siddhars, whose thoughts had greatly influenced its people. Therefore, Tamil literature is abundantly rich in its material on Siddhars. This article attempts to focus attention on the term Siddhar (சித்தர்) and its use in early Tamil literature. As the exhaustive delineation of details and illustrations is not possible within the short compass of an article, attention is focussed only on broad trends.

The term Siddhar (or Siddhan—சித்தன்) denotes one who has achieved Siddhi (சித்தி). The word Siddhi in its ordinary sense means success, realization or attainment. It also means motsham (final liberation). But with particular reference to the term Siddhar, as it is popularly understood now, it means the supernatural powers—more specifically the eight supernatural powers known as attamasiddhi (அட்டமாசித்தி). Therefore, Siddhars in the generally accepted sense of the term, are 'the Perfected Ones' or the mystics who have acquired the eight supernatural powers. The Thiruvilayadarpuranam records interesting accounts of the exploits of Lord Siva in the role of a Siddhar. More traditionally, the word Siddhar refers to the Supernals who inhabit the intermediate region between the earth and the Sun and who are one of the Patinen Kanam (பதினெண் கணம்) of the Lord Siva.

The term Siddhan (or Siddhar) has been in use in Tamil literature from very early times. We find the word Siddhan occurring in the great Tamil epic Silappadhikaram, written as early as the 2nd century A.D. Ilango Adigal, the royal-ascetic poet of this unsurpassed gem of early Tamil literature, uses the word Siddhan in a particular context, to mean the one who has achieved all his desired goals or one who has completed all that he has to do or one who has cleansed himself of all past deeds. In another context, Ilango makes use of the word Siddhan to denote the one who had originated the eight types of Siddhis. The term Siddhan referred to above has been utilised to describe Vardhamana Mahavira, the great sage who established Jainism as a separate religion. In the epic, the words are uttered by the Jaina Siddhar known as Saranar (சாரணர்) to the Jaina lady monk, Kavunthiadigal.

Among the Buddhists and the Jains, the sages who had achieved supernatural powers were referrred to by the term Saranar. There are references to Saranar in Silappadhikaram, as already seen. The epic reveals that the Saranars are capable of raising themselves up from the ground and standing in thin air and that they are capable of flying fast in the high skies.

There are also references to Saranar in the Tamil classical work, Manimekalai, a Buddhist poem, which also dates back to the 2nd century A.D. This work which narrates the life story of Manimekalai, a Buddhist Bhiksuni (nun) reveals that Saranar had supernatural powers like flying in the high skies above as if to catch the Sun and the Moon, delving into the land below as if it is just a sheet of water and walking on water with the same ease of walking on the land. According to the Buddhist tradition, the Saranar visited many

sacred places flying in the high skies, gave enlightenment to appropriate individuals and granted to others their genuine requests.

The Jaina lexicon Chudamani Nigandu (சூடாமணி நிகண்டு) of Mandala Purudan (மண்டல புருடன்) of the 10th century A.D., records that the Jaina Saranar were of eight divisions.

Further in the Jaina philosophy, the term Siddhacharanam (சித்தசரணம்) occurs, which means seeking refuge with the Siddhars or 'the Perfected Ones'. Again there is also the term Siddhaparamestikal (சித்த பரமேஷ்டிகள்), which means the Supernals or 'the Perfected Ones'. There are references to them in the commentary on the Chintamani (the Jivaka-Chintamani—சீவக சிந்தாமணி) of Thiruttakadevar (early 10th century A.D.), the Jaina ascetic-poet.

Though the word Siddhar does not occur as such in Kurunthogai (a collection of short-poems) included in the celebrated Sangam collection called Ettuthogai (எட்டுத்தொகை), there are references in a verse about those who possessed supernatural powers. The gist of the Kurunthogai verse (attributed to the poetess Vellividhiyar—வெள்ளிவீதியார்) which makes interesting reading is given below. The verse is in the form of confident words of consolation uttered by a girl-friend to a lady in love, who had been temporarily separated from her lover.

"Our lord (though separated from you) is not one who can delve into the earth and disappear. Neither is he one that can fly in the high skies, nor is he one who can walk over the sea that crosses his path, with his feet. Therefore, is he one that cannot be found if he is looked for in country after country, in village after village and in settlement after settlement?" (He is sure to be found; therefore, thou despair not of thy lover).

In the Thevaram hymns, which are melodious outbursts of highly spiritual souls in moments of supreme rapture, there are indeed many references to Siddhars. For instance in one of his hymns, Sundaramurthi Nayanar addresses the Lord Siva Himself as a Siddha and the Siva who exhibits His glorious siddhis. There are also other references. The Thevaram hymns differentiate those who are trying to realize God as Bhakthars (பக்தர்கள்) and those who have realized God as Siddhars.

There are also indeed usuages of the term Siddhar in the compositions of the Vaishnava Acharyas and saints who go by the name Alwars and who are the famous authors of the great and well-known collection, the Nalayirappirabandam or the Divyappirabandam.

The references to Siddhars in the Saiva lyrics of Thayumanavar of the early eighteenth century are well-known. The collection of his lyrics (Thayumana Swamigal Thiruppadartiratu—தாயுமான சுவாமிகள் திருப்பாடற்றிரட்டு) carries a full canto in praise of the glorious assemblage of Siddhars (Siddhar Ganam—சித்தர்கணம்).

Siddiyers : The Lady Siddhars : The feminine form of the term Siddhar is Siddhiyer (சித்தியர்). The Siddhiyers are considered to be a class of celestial women. There is a reference to Siddhiyer in Kambaramayanam.

The term Siddhar in other senses : The word Siddhar has been used in early Tamil literature in other senses also. For instance in the celebrated commentator Nachinarkkiniyar's gloss on Thirumurugattruppadai (திருமுருகாற்றுப்படை) of poet Nakkirar, the word Siddhan refers to Lord Muruga, the traditional Tamil God of the hills.

From the commentary of Nachinarkkiniyar it is seen that the place now known as Palani (Madurai district) was in early times known as Siddhanvazhvu (சித்தன் வாழ்வு) and that it is this Siddhanvazhvu that is referred to as Avinankudi (ஆவினன்குடி) in Thirumurugattruppadai. The word Siddhanvazhvu also occurs in one of the poems of Avvaiyar (1st or 2nd century A.D.), the popular poetess of Tamilnad.

The ancient Tamil nigandu (lexicon) known as Pingalanigandu or Pingalam (பிங்கல நிகண்டு அல்லது பிங்கலம்) after the name of its author Pingala Munivar (பிங்கல முனிவர்) records that the term Siddhan refers to Bhairava (பைரவன்), Arhat (அருகன்) and Jupiter (வியாழன்). The term was also commonly used to refer to Lord Sivan (சிவன் .

According to the Vaidhiya Malaiyagarathi (வைத்திய மாலையகராதி) of Pathinen Siddhar (பதினெண் சித்தர்), the word Siddhan also refers to a type of tree—the red-flowered silk cotton tree (இலவம்). The word Siddhan also connotes loadstone (காந்தக்கல்).

> "But now where'er I sit,
> Or stand or walk,
> Thou (God) art forever near."
>
> —(*Sivavakkyam*).

> "There is a land of pure delight
> Where saints immortal reign."
>
> —(*Watts' Hymns—Hymn* 66).

(*From the Souvenier released Conference of the Sidha System of Medicine, dvring World Tamil Conference*).

History of PROHIBITION in India

This article will be of much interest in view of the fact that the Fourth All India Prohibition Conference held at Madras on 12th, 13th and 14th April 1968.

The story of modern Indian Prohibition is, in its essence, but a chapter in the ageless biography of Mahatma Gandhi. To him drink by itself was not the question of the moment. In this issue he saw the evil of drink as symptomatic of the malaise that global humanity was suffering from. When he saw the Indian humanity in the clutches of the alien imperialism, emasculated, aimless on the verge of extinction he diagonised the disease. He traced its origin to a definite cause.

The cause in his opinion was the nations straying away from cultural values, evolved by it in its hoary history. These values he had no difficulty in finding, were time and again taught by the Gita, the Buddha and every saint and sage without exemption. He summarised them in these words : ' Satya, Ahimsa and Brahmacharya '.

To the Mahatma, Prohibition was a spontaneous result of a voluntary life of abstinence—Brahmacharya. This much misunderstood word Brahmacharya actually means abstaining from all sensual desire. Drink is only a pleasure of the senses.

He therefore adopted Prohibition scheme and got the Indian National Congress to incorporate it in its eleven essential schemes of national reconstruction in a special sitting in Bombay in 1921. Prohibition after this became an issue of national importance.

Drinking was and is a Western convention. The Westerners brought this convention to the East and although so to say through the force of circumstances, some of the Eastern peoples took to drinking, they yet had reserves of mental sanity to wish to refrain from the habit forming usage and kept on demanding and occasionally obtaining Prohibition as occurred in India in Tipu Sultan's time.

The frame work of the British Indian Excise Policy was laid down in 1790. About this time Tipu Sultan's famous Prohibition Edict had gone out. This princeling was only following the excise policy of other great kings like Allaudin Kilji, Sultana Razia, Aurangazib and nearly all muslim rulers.

Then there was Emperor Asoka who was a Buddhist. His religion definitely debarred indulgence in drink and drugs. One of the five commandments of Buddhism is :

" The householder who delights in Dharma should not partake of intoxicating drinks and drugs, should not make others to use both and should not sanction the (alcoholic) indulgence of these who do so, knowing that the use results in loss of sanity. "

Role of Religion

In those distant days religions played the role of sustaining society. In stressing the essential features of human activity and outlawing those based on the pleasures of the senses. Buddhism can banish not only drink but also theft, adultery, gambling and all similar aberration of human conducts. This period of balanced life lasted for centuries.

" Nothing but ruin shares a nation in the face that is a prey to the drink habit. History records that empires have been destroyed through this habit. We have it in India that the great community to which Lord Krishna belonged was ruined by that habit."

—Mahatma Gandhi.

In a later epoch of Indian history comes the set back of human values vis-a-vis the Prohibition proposition. When due to another renaissance traced to the revival of vedic Hinduism in about 187 AD the use of alcoholic drinks was introduced in religious rituals, the state under Mauryan Emperors came to minimise the evil effects of drinks as witnessed in Kautilya's code, where the Government carried on a strict supervision of the manufacture and sale of spirituous beverages.

During the British Rule

During the British rule, they had to find money in ever greater amounts both to carry on an empire defence system and also to make remittances to the Home Treasury. New sources of a recurring revenue had to be found and in 1790 the frame work of the British Indian liquor laws and also of an excerpt of Indian grown drugs like opium were framed and enforced.

India did not love liquor yet love of liquor had to be fostered. Unhappily the object of the rulers was achieved, though very gradually. Thus liquor revenue and revenue from imported and house consumed drugs began to grow.

By the time Mahatma Gandhi appeared on the Indian scene in 1914 the revenue was fully one quarter of the total revenue of the whole Indian Empire. And this climax was reached inspite of the principles of Akbari administration as laid down by the Secretary of State and accepted by the House of Commons in 1892.

Gandhiji enters

When Gandhiji incorporated the evergreen aspirations of the Nation for total Prohibition into his general scheme of human life the demand came automatically to be one of the eleven major issues before the National Congress in 1921. Prior to this date it was not as if the Congress has overlooked the issue.

" Prohibition is one of the cornerstones of the new society of Gandhiji's dreams. I am convinced that this policy in the Congress will benefit the workers and the peasant of our country."

— Rajendra Prasad.

In July 1912 the late Hon. Mr. G. K. Gokhale while leading a deputation to wait on Marqueis of Crewe, Secretary of State for India, as leader of the Indian nationalists, stoutly condemned the Indian Empire liquor policy and declared that the habit of drinking was not inherent in the Indian way of life which has been always demanding total prohibition.

On April 30 1889, Samuel, Member of Parliament, moved the following resolution in the House of Commons—

" That in the opinion of this House the fiscal system of the Government of India leads to the establishment of spirit distilleries, liquor and opium shops in large number of places where till recently they never existed in defiance of native opinion and the protests of inhabitents and that such increased facilities for drinking produce a steadily increasing consumption and spread misery and ruin among the industrial classes of India calling for immediate action on the part of Government of India with a view to their abatement."

When put to vote this resolution of Censure was passed 110 voting for and 103 against.

Growing demand

Ever since this date activity motivated by the public demand for Prohibition continued steadily to grow, perhaps accentuated by increasing consumption of intoxicating liquor. The excise revenue was only £ 1,750,000 in 1875 but by 1905 it had grown to £ 5,861,000. An Official Enquiry Committee was therefore appointed in 1905 to enquire into the whole question of excise administration.

The Committee merely white-washed the Government policy. Beyond recommending appointment of local committees nothing was done as a result. An influential deputation of Indian leaders waited on Lord Morley, Secretary of State for India on August 1, 1907. On full enquiry Lord Morley indicated the Government of India of introducing into the country "this new, dire and additional plague". The reaction of the Government of India was that no action was taken as suggested. The whole excise machinery was, on the contrary, more efficiently organised from a revenue stand point with the result that the financial returns became more substantial from year to year.

The first and the greatest of all prohibitionist was perhaps Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Kesub Chandra Sen, founder of the Brahma Samaj was another such. Dr. H. D. Pesikka, D. D. Gilder (father of Dr. Gilder one time Minister of Bombay Government) worked for temperance between 1890 and 1900.

William Sproston Caine, M.P., who founded the Anglo-Indian Temperance Association of London in 1890 was the greatest of old World Englishmen who helped the Indian demand for Prohibition. The Rev. Thomas Evans, a Welsh Missionary also helped the cause at about the same time.

Nearly every Christian Missionary working in India espoused the cause of temperance. Dr. Annie Besant, that fearless fighter for Indian Freedom always had a lot to say for Prohibition. Lokamanya Tilak devoted time and energy towards this cause.

Of the Congress Stalwarts C. Rajagopalachari has been championing Prohibition ever since he took up politics. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Pandit Mothilal Nehru, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, B. G. Kher, K. M. Munshi, Satyamurthy and Sadanand, the veteran journalist who took prominent part in the Freedom struggle and the founder of the "Free Press Journal", Bombay are among others.

The 1923 liquor picketing movement in which thousands of men and women went to jail scarcely needs particular mention. This picketing continued all over the country for a considerable time. The gallantry of men and women who participated attracted country-wide attention. To try and circumvent Congress propaganda for Prohibition many a Commission was appointed by the rulers to sidetrack the demand. Nothing however succeded and in 1937 the Congress came into its own even though partially.

First effort

In 1922 Dewan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao, first sought to introduce a local option Bill in the Madras Legislative Council. The Punjab had already passed this measure in 1921. In Bombay Sir Chunilal Mehta rationed country liquor and within four years that is between 1919 and 1923 reduced country liquor's consumption by 50 per cent.

Bengal improved and extended the Licensing Board System through the inspiration of Sir Deva Prasad Senadhikari, President of the Temperance Federation and had all liquor shops removed from those wards of Calcutta where the Principal Colleges and Schools were situated and prohibited the sale of liquor to those under sixteen years of age.

The Uttar Pradesh followed the Bengal System and began gradually to reduce existing liquor shops. Assam went in local Option to give power to Electors to control the issue of liquor licences within certain areas, gradually to effect local Prohibition throughout the province.

Total Prohibition

Against the All-India picture total Prohibition came to be introduced in some states. Bhopal a State only smaller than Hyderabad prohibited liquor to all Muslim subjects, allowing controlled supply to non-Muslims.

Sir Prabha Shankar Pattani, President of the Council of Administration of Bhavanagar State visited America in 1925 to study the question of Prohibition and on his return home influenced the State Council to issue strict Prohibition orders on October 1, 1925. The neighbouring states of Palitana and Jasdan soon followed Bhavanagar's example. Mysore the then second largest state adopted local option. So did Travancore and Baroda. Hyderabad removed all liquor shops from its midst.

When in 1937 the Congress came into power the fight against drink rose in Tempo and had it not gone out of office immediately total prohibition would have been brought out in India in 1940.

When the Congress Governments were formed in the States in 1947 (after Independence) Prohibition policy was taken up in right earnest.

Madras was the first State in whole of India to introduce Prohibition. The Prohibition Act is an epoch making piece of provincial legislation.

Prohibition in the composite State of Madras was introduced areawise in three stages. Eight districts were made dry with effect from October 1946, eight more in 1947 and in the last stage Prohibition was extended from 2nd October 1948.

Following the Madras example Maharashtra came in a big way and introduced total Prohibition. The other states which later towed the line were Punjab, Madya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Mysore. Kerala and Andhra when they became separate by Reorganisation Plan continued to follow the total Prohibition.

The Congress rule in Madras State continued this policy unabated.

"To give the poor people drinking water and to wean them from drink are, if there were nothing else, achievements of which any ministry might be proud."

—The Rt. Hon. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri

TAMILNAD TO CONTINUE PROHIBITION

When the Congress Governments in some States are wavering over this important social reform and relaxing it to get more revenue, the D.M.K. Government in Madras is determined to continue total Prohibition, since it happens to be main plank to afford peace and tranquility in poor man family. There is no denying the fact that Prohibition is an essential reform and the necessity of it is not disputed. But the entire problem is how best it can be implemented. The Government of Madras is not vascillating on this issue. The Chief Minister Thiru C. N. Annadurai is fully aware of what Thiru C. Rajagopalachari once said. He said "As a lover of my country men and as one who believes in good Government, I insist that alcohal with its well-known habit forming property should not be distributed at the instance of Government and made easily available to unthinking people and that organised Governments should cease making a business of it. It is not really a profitable business for the State to organise continuous temptation on the part of people."

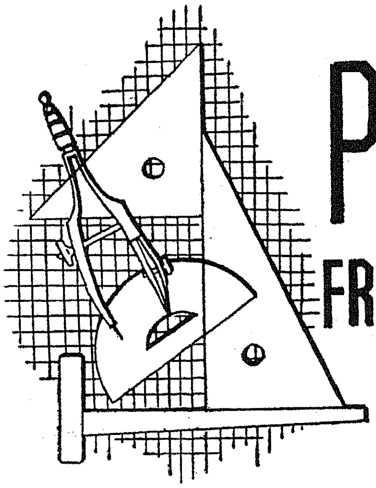
The very fact that the D.M.K. is in power after 20 years of continued Congress Rule shows beyond doubt that it has popular backing. It will be possible for this Government to implement Prohibition successfully, since the people are convinced that schemes benefiting common man are being implemented.

While Kerala, Madya Pradesh, Mysore and lately Maharashtra, the States which implemented total Prohibition, had relaxed it, it is left to the Tamil Nad Government to implement this social reform and give a lead to the whole country.

HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE

The State shall regard the raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvements of Public Health as among its primary duties and in particular the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.

—Article 47 of the Constitution of India.



PLANNING FROM BELOW

PROF. D. R. GADGIL
Member, Planning Commission

This is the first of a series of meetings discussions, etc., which will be held during the course of this year or the preparation of the Fourth Five-Year Plan, scheduled to commence from 1st April 1969. The Fourth Five-Year Plan will begin after a break of a three-year period of annual plans. This break indicates the intervention of a critical phase in the progress of our planned development, and has necessarily many lessons for those involved in the process of planning. We have to internalise these lessons and to reorient appropriately our methods, procedures and policies. It may be useful to start with a statement of what appear to be the most important of the needed adaptations and adjustments.

We have to look on planning not as a series of distinct programmes of five year effort but as a continuous, ongoing process; and planning has to be thought out not only in relation to possibilities of long term development of the economy but also to short and intermediate term variations and fluctuations in its fortunes. Therefore, while the five year plans of the future will continue to embody the best estimates and judgments made on the basis of intensive investigations, analysis, and thinking at the beginning of the period, they need not be treated as either not being capable of or not needing adjustments from time to time during the currency of the five year period.

Planning from below

There is general agreement that planning so far has not sufficiently taken into account the specific circumstances and requirements of particular States and areas and that an element of "planning from the bottom" has to be introduced in our approach and procedures. However, because finalised elaborate plans are required to be fully prepared at the beginning of each five year period the pressure of time, etc., has envariably led to this being ignored and the final effort has tended to be put in the form of a series of standardised schemes in an already accepted frame. The same pressures are likely to lead to the same results this time unless the approach is changed. The change suggested is two-fold. Firstly, exercises made at the State and the district level should begin with collating all available information in regard to development resources, requiremets and prospects, so that programmes of action are formulated directly in relation to these and not modelled on or limited by any set of standardised schemes. The change implied is that of inviting State and District planners to look at their own data afresh, formulate their objectives and requirements and prepare corresponding programmes of action.

The second change is that while this will be done in as great a detail as possible, the full working out of all programmes should not be insisted on at the very outset. Every programme must, of course, be worked out in full relevant detail before its execution is undertaken. However, at the time of formulation of the five year plan the extent of the detail worked out should be of the order needed only to justify the place and priority of the programme in the plan. Not only will such an approach give the needed flexibility to planning but it will also ensure that the work of investigation, collection, collation and analysis will continue throughout the plan period. It has to be recognised that in most respects the information available at the state and the district and even at the national level is today not fully adequate. It is, however, natural that investigations are not undertaken or data collated and analysed unless these are required for a specific purpose and can be meaningfully utilised. When plan formulation, implementation and evaluation become continuous, successive processes and each successive stage of planning requires more intensive effort, enquiry and research would come to be integrated

with planning and will acquire a newer dimension. The enquiry may be local and highly specific and the research mainly an exercise in adaptation; such activities will none the less prove highly essential nd useful in planning. Therefore, the planningf organisations, of the future will not only need to have at their disposal adequate economic and statistical expertise but will also require to be in touch with local agencies of investigation and research in all relevant subjects.

The natural corollary of beginning to plan from the bottom is to recognise that planning is not something that comes from outside or the above but what each State, district, locality and community does to develop its own resources and potentialities. This emphasises a wide diffusion of initiative, decision-making and participation; it also implies a parallel shouldering of responsibilities. That we have reached a point in planning where our resources are highly strained is by now glaringly evident. Logically, this should be a chronic condition in all poor countries in the early stages of development.

Self-reliance

With us the situation has been partly concealed so far because of two factors. Firstly our plans were limited in scope and objectives and pressures from all sectors and areas for development effort had not mounted up. Secondly, timely and generous foreign aid enabled us to continue with fairly large development expenditures without making adequate internal efforts. The situation has changed in both respects. Expectations are rising all along the line and the limit has been reached in the raising of foreign resources; also as they have become somewhat uncertain, the importance of self-reliance has come to be stressed. The time has come to do all we can to raise progressively larger internal resources for development planning; if the effort is not to slacken and the economy allowed to stagnate. The effort is not likely to succeed unless its base is widened as much as possible. This involves a number of things; the maximum effort by all taxing authorities, an appropriate policy regarding rates and charges by all public utilities and services and the maximum contribution by all public enterprises. It also means restraint on non-essential consumption expenditure by all establishments and house-holds (and this in our case has to be brought about largely by voluntary discipline), maximising individual savings and maximum effort by all companies, unincorporated establishments and households, who require resources for development, to find these to the greatest possible extent from out of their own surpluses. Planned action to encourage or explore all these sources has to be equally vigorous at all levels, the Centre, the State and the district.

It is likely that through a number of convergent trends the formulation and financing of plans at eacwh level will, in future, be more autonomous. So that while at each tier planning will proceed within a given broad frame and for a set of objectives and some financial contribution from above will be available, these will be relatively fixed and the size and quality of plans at each level will be largely shaped by action of appropriate authority at that level. It may be premature to gerneralise in this manner regarding planning at the district level, as conditions in this respect vary greatly from State to State and are at present relatively fluid. There is not, however, much uncertainty regarding development in this direction in relation, to planning at the State level in the near future.

Financial restraints

I consider this a highly desirable development. Planning loses all meaning and direction unless it is undertaken within certain constraints and is related to a given effort. The need for making choices, defining priorities and attempting balanced and co-ordinated effort become evident only in the context of financial and other restraints. Above all, in the absence of such compulsions, efficiency and economy are usually disregarded. Constant awarness of financial restraints is thus of extreme importance in planning in a poor country.

The two main stages in plan formulation are firstly, setting the objectives and targets for the ultimate or long-term achievements, and secondly, defining precisely what you expect to do within a definitive period of five years, one year, etc. While the first sets the main directions and looks, if fairly realistic, to general feasibility, the other has to be a much more detailed and it must take full account not only of resources, financial and physical and how they will be made available, but also of possible administrative performance, the implications for economic policy and of the socio-political milieu. Also, it has to be internally fully co-ordinated so that at each stage appropriate effort is made in every direction, and is currently fully synchronised. We are to consider how each State (and by implication each district or such lower level authority) will initiate and complete these tasks for itself for the next five-year period.

Collection and analysis of data

Planning activity during the last fifteen years has thrown up some amount of information and led to collection of a body of statistical data. The first stage is the collation and analysis of the available data with a view to assessing the extent of progress made or development achieved in various directions.

The next requirement is to define carefully the objectives of future effort in each important direction. Let me explain what I mean by definition of objectives at different levels by reference to the instance I gave in my statement before the N.D.C., I quote "For example, while a national road plan would be concerned chiefly with construction and maintenance of through routes important for inter-State traffic and for the country as a whole, a road plan of a State would have to be oriented to such objectives as opening up backward areas, integrating the various regions and making for a disposal of economic development uniformly over the entire area of the State. A district road plan, on the other hand, may well be directed to creating centres from which socio-economic services are provided for individual villages and to integrating such centres with the area of surrounding villages and with each other".

Differing needs

Similarly, in respect of activities like co-operation or education while the very distant goals may be similar the goals set for the next five year period may differ widely from State to State and district to district. It is often pointed out that vitality of co-operative activity and the progress made by it in different areas are so disparate that general prescription in relation to them have no validity. While this may be accepted, there is no reason to hold that what can be achieved in one part of the country cannot, with appropriate effort and in time, be accomplished elsewhere. However, two types of steps have to be taken in the intervening period. Firstly, an organisational substitute must be found for performing the development functions which in the advanced areas devolve on the co-operatives and secondly an appropriate programme of action for building up over a time the required co-operative structure be drawn up. This means that careful analysis of the situation in each area relating to such aspects as official policy and attitudes, the quality of non-official leadership and the areas in which a break through appears most likely must be undertaken, apart from the usual statistics regarding needed revitalisation, extent of linking the State of overdues, etc.

The physico-geographical conditions vary within the country even more widely than the socio-economic; and the only way in which full account can be taken of these variations in planning is to spell out for each type of area and activity the goals of proximate development effort in physical terms. The point need not be laboured. It is, however, clear that the definition of objectives when attempted in some detail will involve not only analysis of the existing situation but also an assessment of limitations and possibilities. And this assessment will be related to scientific and technological advance as well as to social and economic structure and attitudes. I trust I am not making the task appear unduly difficult. That is not my intention, also I do not believe it to be too difficulty. It would be wrong in this regard to set our sights too high. In planning in an underdeveloped country inadequacy of data must be taken for granted. What I would like to emphasise is not so much full information or elaborate tools of analysis as the desire to understand the situation, to define a set of co-ordinated goals with some precision and to think-out possibilities carefully and in some detail. If such an approach is fully accepted and there is readiness to take pains, planning at the State and the district level is bound to get a good start.

In collecting information

In the initial stage of collecting information and defining objectives attention will naturally be concentrated on particular areas of activities, such as agriculture, roads, small industry, education or health. However, for making progress towards a properly co-ordinated plan meaningful frames in which a number of activities could be fitted must be found. It appears that in the context of State and district planning it is important to integrate plan fromulations relating to (1) provision of socio-economic overheads and (2) the conservation and development of natural resources. The State has the responsibility of providing universally the utilities and services which are needed for the development of economic activities of individual establishments.

An economic way of planning for the diffusion of these facilities is to locate them in a series of well-distributed centres each of which serves a convenient surrounding area. This approach could take care of not only the vital system of communications but also of the location of schools and health centres, of bank branches and wherehouses as also of the location of industry. The concept of such a physico-geographical frame for the planning of socio-economic overheads at various levels could prove a powerful device in economic, effective and also objective planning of an important area of State activity. Though less comprehensive, the concept of co-ordinated conservation and development of natural resources will also meaningfully bring together a number of important functions of the State. This exercise will also provide the needed secure and broadening base for planning the development of agriculture, other primary production and of the necessarily resource-based, widely spreading small industry.

Development plans of individual productive activity will have to be formulated separately. However, especially at the district level an imporant consideration in the planning of all aspects i.e., of the socio-economic overheads, of resource development and of productive activities will be the provision of employment or

rather as full utilisation as possible of labour resources. This requirement should provide an important directing and integrating factor in all area or regional plans.

Spade work

Finally, I may touch upon an important aspect of our data about which firm indications may not be available for some time. As you are aware a Finance Commission is due to be appointed which will investigate a large area of Central—State financial relations. Until its interim report is available an exact picture of the availability of resources for each State plan would not emerge. Though this information is vital for the final drawing up of the plans I consider that a very large part of the preparatory work can be done in advance. Taking stock of the existing situation, collecting information, defining objectives and ascertaining possibilities can for the most part be completed in advance. Similarly preparing the physico-geographical frames for provision of socio-economic overheads or compiling long term plans of conservation and development of natural resources and of agricultural and industrial activity need not wait for an exact idea of the results of financial devolution. Moreover, consideration of raising of reasources at the State or local level and of other aspects such as policies for encouraging investment of private resources in own business, inducing savings and restraining non-essential consumption (public and private) have also a little to do with the findings of the Finance Commission. All these subjects can be carefully studied and attention can be concentrated on what could be done in the earlier years of the next five year plan ; so that we could be in a position to put the plan in the final form soon after the Finance Commission's recommendations are known.

If all this is properly planned there is no reason why satisfactory formulation of plans along new lines should not be achieved within the year. It will, however, require strenuous organised efforts. The organisation will have to be fairly elaborate. Planning activities will have to be initiated in all areas and departments and the Central Coordinating Unit will have to be greatly strengthened. Also, elements outside the official circle will have to be drawn into the process. Leaders of opinion and knowledgeable people in all areas and subjects must be invited to participate in plan formulation, and to contribute towards thinking about raising of resources. It has to be widely recognised that planning is not sending up lists of demands to somebody high up and that the revolution of rising expectations could produce lasting results only if matched by an upsurge of matching effort.

We realise that parts of the suggested approach are unfamiliar and have not been fully worked out. In relation to these and also in relation to other aspects of the work such as surveys, analysis or project reports some State Governments may desire to be assisted. The States Plans division within the Planning Commissior is being specially strengthened to enable it to give such assistance. Also the Committee on Plan Projects is being reorganised for helping with surveys and project reports in particular. We shall be glad to learn from representatives of States of the directions in which any of them would like to have such assistance.

High Power Committee on Land Acquisition

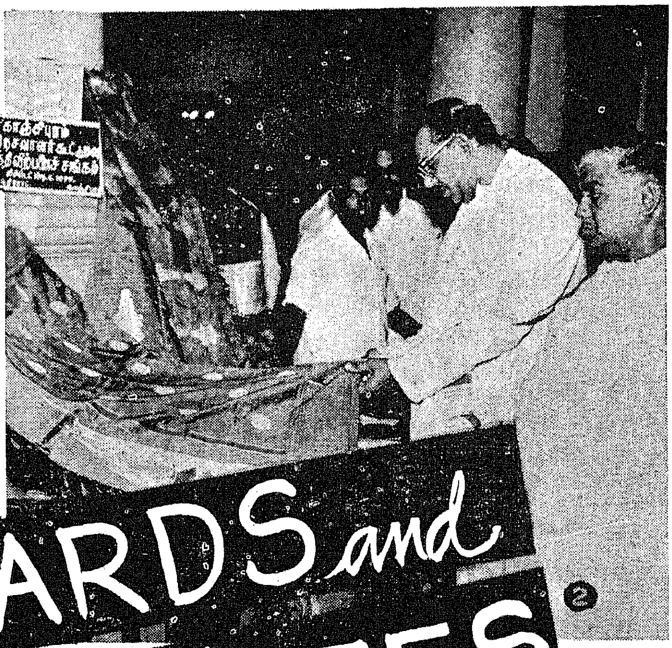
The High Power Committee on Land Acquisition which arrived at Madurai on 5th February 1968 from Madras met at the Collectors Office and recorded evidence from 25 witnesses. Some of the members were of the opinion that the quantum of compensation should be decided by a judge and not by a Collector. Another important point stressed by most of the witnesses was that the agricultural lands should be acquired only when the other types of lands are not available for public purposes. Some witnesses said that land should be acquired only for Governmental purposes. They stressed that the existing procedure should be streamlined so as to avoid unnecessary delays and inconveniences in completion of the Land Acquisition proceedings.

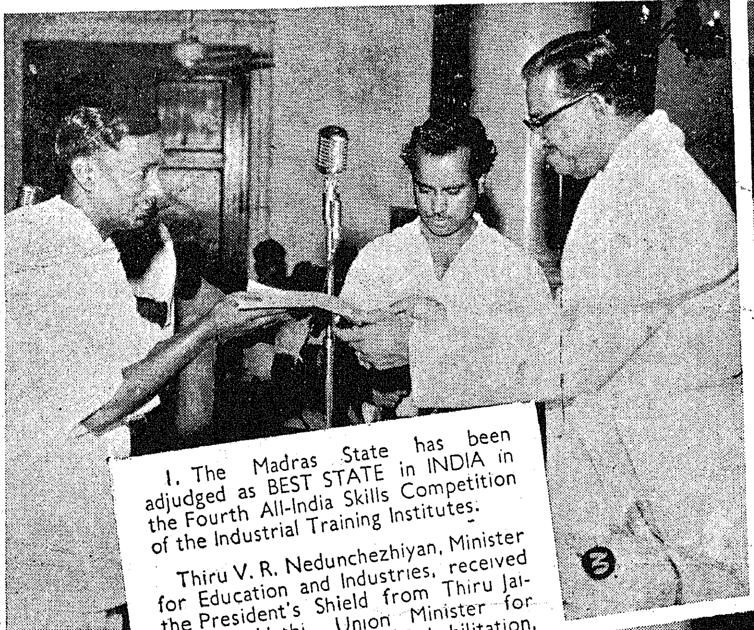
Among the members present at the sitting were Prof.N.G. Ranga, Thiru Onkarlal Bohra, Thiru Kanwarlal Gupta, Thiru V. Krishnamurthy, Members of Parliament, Thiru M.P. Raja Rao, M.L.A., Andhra Pradesh and Thiru D. B. Kulkarni, Joint Secretary to the Government of India and Member-Secretary of the Committee.

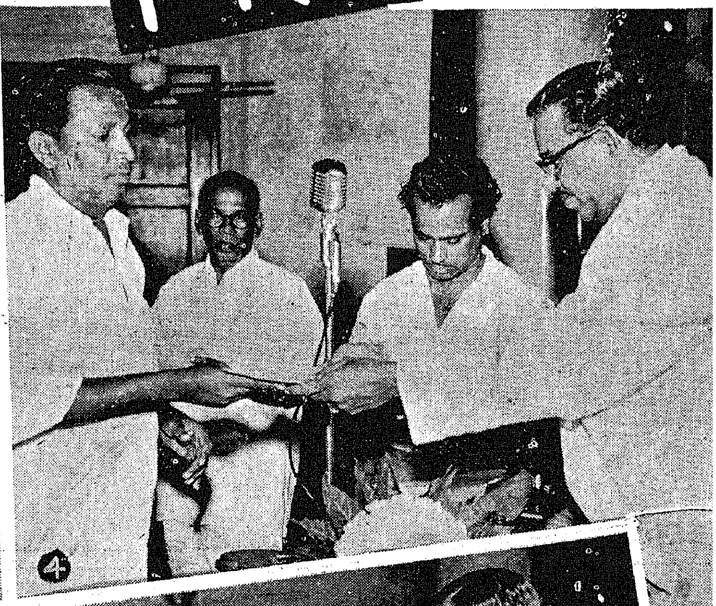
Witnesses representing various interests namely agriculture land owners and lawyers, gave evidence before the Committee. Prominent among them were Thiru T. A. Viswanathan representing kisans and peasants, Thiru Sambhushankar Rao, Thiru A.L. Krishna murthy, Thiru Savaranatha Pillai, Thiru Dhanushkodi, Secretary, Bar Association, Madurai.

The Committee headed by Thiru Anand Narain Mulla, M.P., consists of 28 Members, The Committee was appointed by the Government of India to review the entire working of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 and to suggest improvements in its administration which have become necessary on account of the developing economy of the country.

AWARDS and PRIZES







1. The Madras State has been adjudged as BEST STATE in INDIA in the Fourth All-India Skills Competition of the Industrial Training Institutes.

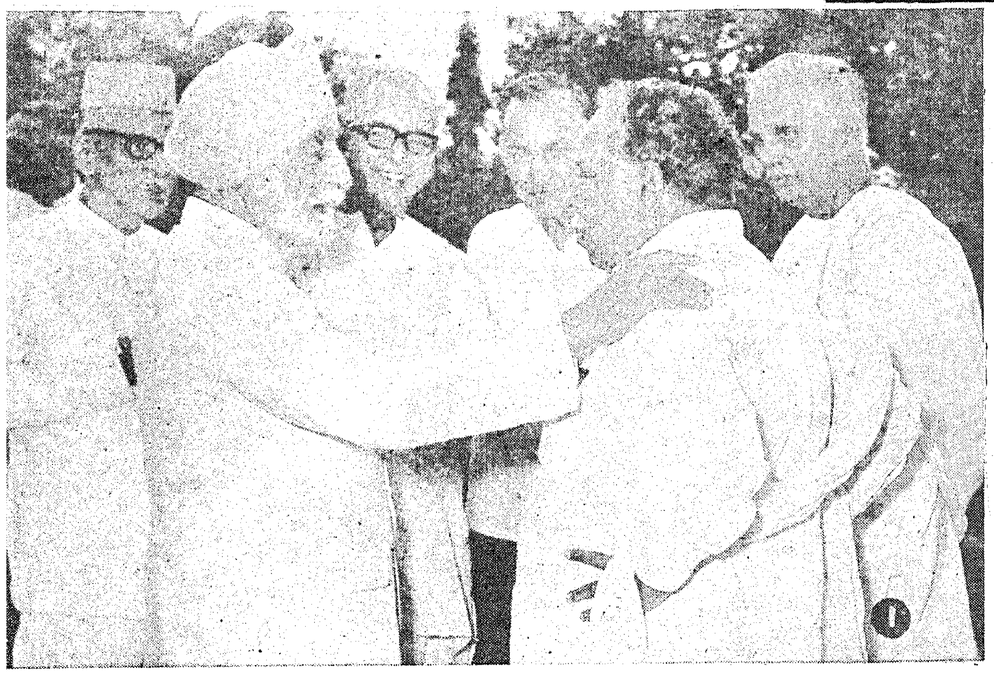
Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Education and Industries, received the President's Shield from Thiru Jaisukhalal Hathi, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation, at a function held on 9th March 1968 at Madras.

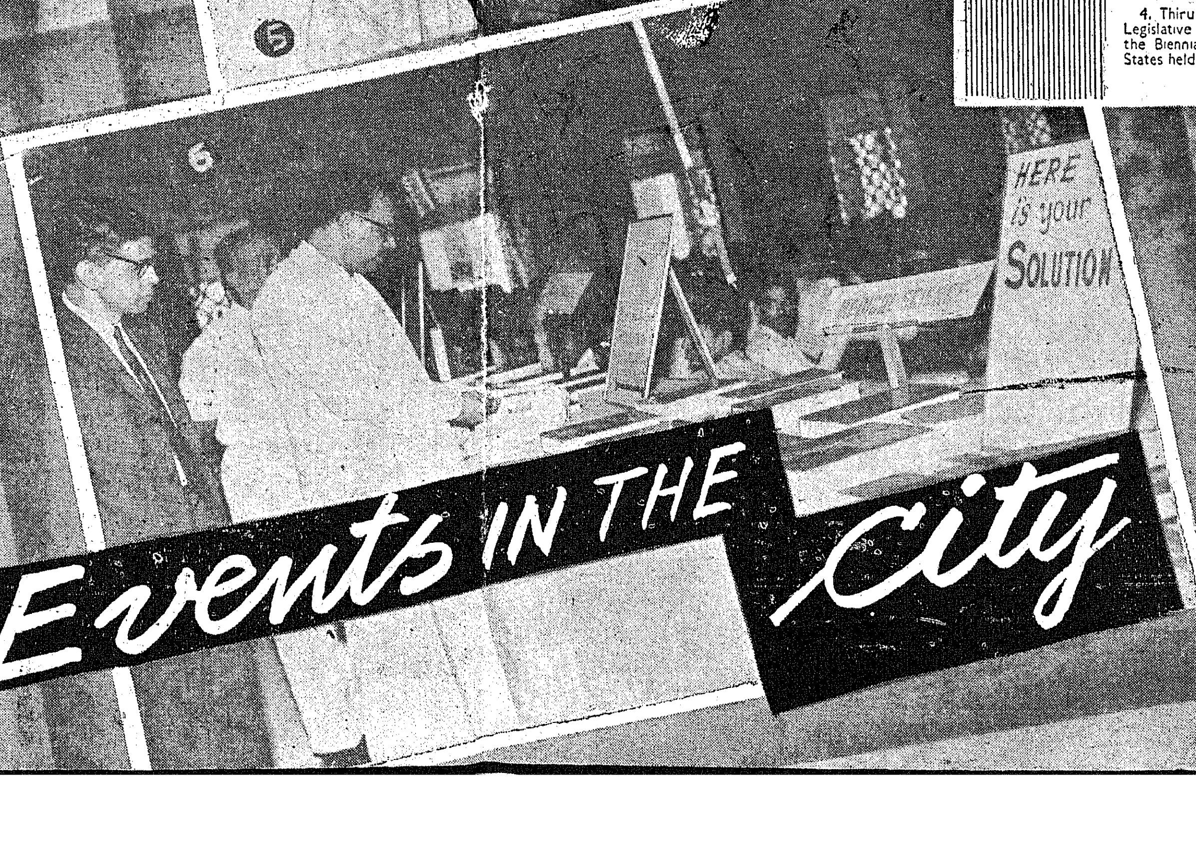
2. The Minister for Education and Industries is inspecting some of the handloom fabrics displayed at the Prize Award Competition for Handloom Fabrics of Madras, Chingleput and North Arcot districts at Rajaji Hall on 21st March 1968.

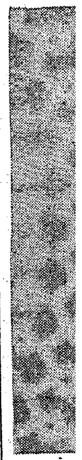
3. & 4. The Minister for Education and Industries distributing prizes to the winners in the Prize Award Competition for Handloom Fabrics.

5. The Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation presenting awards to the winners in the All-India Skills Competition of the Industrial Training Institutes.

Events in the city







1. The Governor of Madras in conversation with the Chief Minister at the tea-party given by the former to meet the Legislators on 25th March 1968.

2. Thirumathi Sathiavani Muthu, Minister for Harijan Welfare and Information presenting a final cheque for Rs. 10,000 on behalf of the Madras Hut Dwellers Fire Accident Committee to Thiru C. N. Annadurai, Chief Minister of Tamilnad, at the concluding function of the committee held at Queen Mary's College Gardens on 24th March 1968.

3. The Minister for Harijan Welfare and Information is presenting a Ponnadai to Padma Bhushan Mary Clubwala Jadhav, who was felicitated at the 26th meeting of the State Social Welfare Board on 28th March 1968. The Minister inaugurated the meeting.

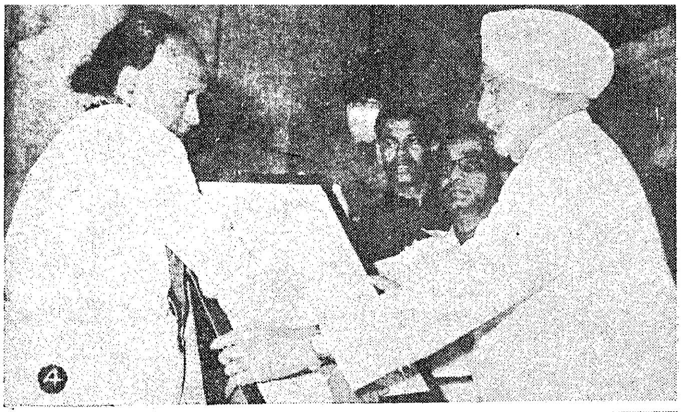
4. Thiru Si. Pa. Aditanar, Speaker, Legislative Assembly casting his vote in the Biennial Election to the Council of States held on 28th March 1968.

5. Thiru S. J. Sadiq Pasha, Minister for Public Health inaugurated the Annual Conference of the Madras Health Inspectors Association on 9th March 1968. Welcome address is being presented to him on the occasion.

6. Thiru. V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, Minister for Education and Industries who inaugurated the low priced Indian edition of American University-text books exhibition at Guindy, on 21st March 1968 is looking at some of the books.

7. Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Union Minister for Health and Family Planning is distributing Artificial limbs to poor handicapped persons at a function held at Madras Medical College on 15th March 1968. The State Public Health Minister also participated.

8. The General Secretary of the Madras State Health Visitors Association is pinning the conference badge of the Association on the Minister for Public Health as he arrives to inaugurate the conference held on 12th March 1968.



ARTISTES and TEACHERS HONOURED

The State Awards for Artistes and Teachers were distributed by the Governor Sardar Ujjal Singh on 22nd and 29th March 1968 respectively.

1. & 2, The Governor is distributing the State awards for elementary school teachers.

3. Cine Artiste Thirumathi Vijayakumari (cinema actress) is receiving the Madras State Sangeetha Nataka Sangam's award.

4. Thiru Injikudi Pitchaikannu (Nathaswaram) is receiving the award.

5. Thiru S. Balachander (Veena) is receiving the award.

6. Thiru S. S. Rajendran (cinema actor) is being honoured with medal.

Tamilnad Day

Thamizhagam Day was celebrated on the 22nd February 1968 at the Madras Government Pavilion in the Indian International Trade and Industries Fair. The function started with a visit by the distinguished invitees to the Tamilnad pavilion, where the Agriculture, Industries, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Power, Irrigation and Information and Publicity Departments had put up their stalls in a very impressive manner depicting their activities.

After the visits, the distinguished visitors adjourned to the International Centre, where light refreshments were served. While welcoming the distinguished gathering present on the occasion, Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhiyan Minister for Education and Industries said that the Madras Government was considering the idea of maintaining the Fair ground permanently as an exhibition site for the State. He also expressed the hope that some of the structures put up by foreign countries would be given as a parting gift to this State.

Delivering the inaugural address, Sardar Ujjal Singh, Governor of Madras, referred to the great progress made by Madras in the Industrial sphere in recent years. He paid a tribute to the handloom industry of the State which accounted for nearly half of the handloom exports of the country amounting to Rs. 6 crores out of the total of Rs. 12 crores. Though the industry was not in a very good way now, he hoped with good crops, etc., the purchasing power of the people would increase. He stressed the need for a co-ordinated development of both agriculture and industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Thiru C. N. Annadurai, Chief Minister of Madras, said that there were some people who had expressed doubts about the possibility of holding the Fair in the midst of the recession in industry and import cuts but thanks to the vigorous steps taken by the organisers, the Fair had been a grand success.

He said that though our country was blessed with vast natural resources it was still lagging far behind other advanced countries of the world and the progress recorded in the country fell far short of what could be achieved with a proper and fuller utilisation of our resources nor was it adequate to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. Besides, he added, lakhs of Indian Repatriates would be coming from Ceylon, Burma and other countries and they would have to be rehabilitated in the coming years. He pointed out that a tremendous lot of planning would be necessary in rehabilitating the repatriates as agriculturists, plantation workers and also as participants in industry. Hence he appealed to all to whichever political party they might belong to work together for ten or fifteen years, pooling all their resources. If this was done, he was sure that, our country would be able to achieve a high stage of economic prosperity comparable with that of foreign countries. In this context he explained how Britain, Germany and the Soviet Union, whose economics were ravaged by the war were able to reconstruct themselves by hard effort and were now in a position to help the less developed countries and expressed the hope that India would follow the inspiring example of these countries and would reach an eminent position in Asia.

Thiru Annadurai also touched on the problems facing the handloom industry and said that if the foreign visitors to the fair were to buy one piece of handloom cloth, it would be helpful. In the context, of the expanding demand for our handloom products abroad, he stressed the need for maintaining quality at all costs.

Thiru C. A. Ramakrishnan, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The function ended with pleasant cultural shows, arranged for the occasion, which include Music, Dance Kummi and Kolattam and Villupattu.

The Tamil Nadu Pavilion had attracted a very large number of visitors everyday. Prominent among them being Ministers from Central Government, Mysore, Andhra, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, West Bengal, Prominent Indusralists, Delagates of the UNCTAD conference and leading Educationalists.

Experts on Health

"Health in the World of Tomorrow" is the theme of World Health Day Celebrations of this year which was celebrated on 7th April. This year's celebration marks the 20th Anniversary of the coming into force of the Constitution of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Prediction is an art as difficult as it is dangerous—and a theme such as "Health in the World of Tomorrow" is no exception to the rule. On the contrary, in so vasta domain as the physical and mental well-being of man there are too many imponderables—on the debit as on the credit side—for anybody to be justified in adopting an attitude of serene assurance as regards the future. The economic, social, and demographic changes that are emerging on the horizon suggest that no form of progress will ever put a stop to man's efforts to improve his health and that the quest for discoveries, which can barely be guessed at today, will continue unabated. This perhaps is the very human conclusion to be drawn from the statements of some of today's experts quoted in the following pages.

"Suleiman the Magnificient, the famous Turkish Sultan of the 16th century, in one of his poems compared health with soverignty and said that there is nothing superior to a breath of health. It is indeed true : health is the most precious treasure of a man. Therefore the funds which are allocated for building up new industries, improving agriculture, giving better education and health services to the public must be balanced carefully. The need of industry and agriculture for man-power also makes it necessary to improve education and health services".—*Dr. Nusret H. Fisek, School of Public Health, Ankara.*

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Health means progress

"Health goals, as is more and more widely recognized, must be seen within the larger frame work of the other aspirations of any country. A healthier population will grow more food, build more dams, schools and roads—but it will develop greater demands, and there will be more people to make them."—*Dr. Leona Baumgartner, Assistant Secretary of State, Agency for International Development.*

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Everybody plays his part

"Health education will form an integral part of general education and be taught at all ages beginning with nursery school. From their earliest years, children will learn about cleanliness in primary school, and acquire knowledge about communicable diseases and the importance of early treatment for the health and development of man. All of these ideas will also be disseminated by newspapers, magazines and lectures for adults so that the entire population will be convinced of the importance of health care."—*Dr. D. C. Doineau, Ministry of Health, Yaounde Cameroon.*

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Better than cure

"In the future the health services in the Soviet Union will gradually go over to a system of complete 'dispensarization', i.e., the examination not of individual groups of people on the basis of some feature of their work or physiology, but examination of the whole population regardless of other factors. Work has already begun on methods of determining the optimum frequency of examinations and the extent to which doctors in various specialities should take part in them, depending on the age and sex of those examined. It is proposed that the whole adult population, regardless of age, sex and occupation, should be examined annually by therapists and stomatologists. In addition all women are to be examined by an obstetrician-gynaecologist. Furthermore, it is proposed to establish extra examinations by doctors in various branches of medicine

for various age groups."—*Professor I. Bogatyreev, Semashko Institute of Social Hygiene and Public Health Administration in WHO radio interview.*

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Indelibie imprints

"The future of paediatrics should be to peretrate into the intimacies of life in the family, at school and at university. As the human being develops, especially in the early years, he is plastic, open to impressions, sensitive and influenced by the environment and the mental and physical impressions which will mould him for life."—*Professor Robert Debre, Member of the Institute, Paris, from a WHO radio interview.*

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Get a good start

"If malnutrition during the first two years of life could be largely eliminated, and breast-feeding could be supplemented and followed by feedings free from heavy bacterial growth, there is reason to expect a very significant reduction in the current, tragic infantile mortality, even though 'dirty' hands might continue to transmit infectious agents for a long time to come."—*Cause and control of fatal, infantile diarrhoeal diseases, by Albert B. Sabin, M.D., University of Cincinnati.*

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More than too much

"The diets to which we have become accustomed in North America, Western Europe and Australasia represent about ten times subsistence requirements. This does not, of course, mean that we eat more cereal; in fact we eat much less. The rest is made up of the meat, milk, eggs, bacon, fruit, etc., which have required large quantities of cereals to be fed to livestock in order that they might be produced, or have used up the grain equivalent of substantial quantities of agricultural land and labour. Many doctors tell us that we would be healthier if we ate less."—*Colin Clark, Director Agricultual Economics Research Institute, Oxford, "Man and his future".*

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Not by bread alone

"Excellent human subjects will not be produced without an abundance of cultural as well as material resources. We are likely to run out of copper before we run out of food, of paper before we run out of copper. We are short even in this country now of housing, of hospitals, and of educational institutions."—*Jean Mayer, Ph D, DSc., Department of Nutrition, Harvard University, School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts in "Nutrition Reviews".*

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Science to the fore

"The increasing pace of industrialization, the revolutionary changes in methods of transport and communication, the swelling tide of migration from the villages to the cities and the new social orders replacing the old ones constitute sizeable factors which have an impact on each other and on the total health picture. Science and technology being in a way responsible for these trends should also be in a position to meet the challenge of this changing world order."—*Dr. T. R. Tewani, Director, Contributory Health Service Scheme, Ministry of Health, India.*

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The modern tussle

"The enormous confluence of human life and interest in the metropolitan city has resulted in self-destructive building densities, and haphazard overlapping and mutual hampering of areas of habitation, industry, business, storage, recreation and education. The private car has expelled civic life from its natural centres and from many residential and recreational areas. Unsolved traffic problems are only a physical expression of the confusion ruling all human communication and interaction in the metropolis and even in smaller towns", —*Artur Glikson, Architect, Tel Aviv, "Man and his future".*

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Little man, big city

"The fall-out from the population explosion is already affecting us in many unpleasant ways. Over-increase of population leads inevitably to over-large cities; and this, as we see for ourselves in our daily London lives, leads to traffic paralysis, to frustrating rush and long hours of commuting for millions of men and women and to the city-dweller being more and more cut off from nature."—*Sir Julian Huxley, Biologist and writer in "Man and his future".*

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Double or quits

"If we are to lose on the mental health side what we are gaining on the physical, today's medicine will obviously have failed in its task."—*Louis Armand, Member of the French Academy in a WHO radio interview.*

"In the next twenty years, research will be pursued along the same avenues as today, that is to say into parasitic, bacterial and virus diseases, into malnutrition, immunology and mental health problems which are extremely important. However, I am afraid that this growth will not be significantly amplified and intensified unless governmental and international bodies play a more active part."—*Dr. M. Roche, Director, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas, Caracas, in a WHO radio interview.*

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Slow revolutions

"The future depends on scientific research. Sometimes discoveries come about quite unexpectedly as for example, radio-activity and antibiotics, which revolutionized medicine. But we can also imagine some advances based on the research now under way. In psycho-pharmacology, for example, the use of drugs in mental health will do away with the traditional psychiatric hospital. Surgery has a future in the use of grafts, replacing "spare parts" of the human body Furthermore, the study of abnormal chromosomes will eventually lead to modifications of heredity."—*Professor Robert Courrier, Academie des Sciences, Paris in a WHO radio interview.*

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Remnants of the distant past

"A new aspect of research is appearing in areas where conditions are primitive; in such areas it is possible to study in their primeval state epidemiological or pathological conditions which, elsewhere, have been complicated or modified by civilized life. Such research is of more than historical interest because it will allow us to follow up the thread which leads to today's problems. A good example has been the research carried out in the "archeological" home of plague in Iranian Kurdistan which has lead to the solution of many plague problems in India and Java as well as in other parts of the world." —*M. Chamsa, Pasteur Institute of Iran, Teheran.*

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Research reciprocity

"Kwashiorkor, though unknown in the United States, is profoundly interesting for what it may teach about protein deficiency. The study ot yellow fever may yield valuable information on the transmission of virus diseases. By the same token, the less-developed countries may greatly benefit from the colloborative exploitation of unique research opportunities, such as those afforded by Kuru in New Guinea, the apparent low incidence of cancer in Ceylon and Egypt, and the diversity of animal forms in Africa."—*The role of medical research in less-developed areas, James A. Shannon, M.D., Director, National Institutes of Health, Public Health Service, Washington D.C.*

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Drugs

"If drugs in a given country are distributed free of charge to patients in hospital or generally, or if the cost of drugs is partly covered under health insurance systems, one has—by selecting carefully the drugs used a powerful means of educating the public to understand which drugs are really vital or necessary and which drugs in fact represent extravagant and unnecessary expense."—*Dr. Karl Evang, Director-General, Health Services of Norway.*

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Yesterday it was impossible

"Chemotheraphy has already remarkable success to its credit in the fight against endemic diseases in a number of lesser developed countries. Without being excessively optimistic, it is possible to predict that in the not too distant future certain diseases which have been major causes of under-development will have disappeared."—*J. Schneider, Faculty of Medicine, Paris.*

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Attack the "flu" virus

"If you take into account that in the Soviet Union about 20 million people become ill every year with influenza, you understand that even if we could reduce this morbidity to half it would give tremendous economy. And this is our next goal. But we are moving step by step because there has been a lot of confusion in the past. Within the next ten years we will have an influenza vaccine which will give a moderate but certain effect."—*Professor V. M. Zhdanov, Director of the Ivonovsky Institute of Virology, USSR Academy of Medical Sciences in WHO radio intervirw.*

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Synthetic antibodies

"Immunology undoubtedly has a great future. We shall soon be able to make synthetic antibodies since we already know the molecular structure of natural antibodies with their four chains, their sequence of amino-acids, etc. These synthetic antibodies that biochemists

will be ab'e to make available for human use will not produce the reactions or allergies which still characterize our present sera."—*Professor Bernard Halpern, Institute d'Immuno-Biologic, Paris. In a WHO radio interview.*

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Ceoxistence

" The future of infectious diseases will depend on the resources and ingenuity of men of the future. If they understand, as many people do not, that man has to live with his infections in a state of ecological bliss which cannot be upset by wild applications of drug therapy and attempts at eradication, then control of infectious diseases will improve even in the face of possible invasion by extra terrestial micro-organisms."—*Dr.H. Koprowski, Director of the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia in " Man an his future ".*

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Whither vaccination

" The question is more and more being raised as to what should be the scientific cut-off in terms of the use of vaccines. Whenever one puts a strange protein material in the human body one gets benefits, but one also runs a small risk of harm. At some point the harm may be increased to a point where it outweighs the benefits. We have to watch out step. Careful research will tell us when we approach this point."—*Dr. Thomas H. Weller, Nobel Prize winner, in a WHO radio interview.*

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Inequalities in the human clockwork

" The next stage in the struggle for health will be against congenital diseases and those of middle and late life. I do not doubt that these are largely congenital in the sense that a baby of one genotype is likely to die of cerebral haemorrhage due to renal failure at the age of seventy, another of chronic bronchitis at the same age, while a third, of still another genotype, survive both of them but is crippled by arthritis. Perhaps fortunately, we cannot yet predict which organs of a child will break down in old age "—*J. B. S. Haldane, Genetics and Biometry Laboratory, Government of Orissa, India.*

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Immunology revealed

" ......Twenty years from now our various types of diseases, such as communicable diseases, will disppear, the individual age of the population will increase, and by that increase certain diseases which were less prevalent when people died younger, namely diseases of aging, will become more prominent. Twenty years from now there will be very few mysteries left in the field of immunology. We will entirely understand the principle by which our immune system works and we will be able to manipulate it to the benefit of individuals in ways which we cannot, at the moment, even imagine."—*Dr. Niels K. Jerne, Director, Paul-Ehrlich Institute, Frankfurt-am-Main in WHO radio interview.*

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New horizons in perception

" We must expect explosive changes in our understanding when we begin to understand the brain. The learning system builds a model of the world out of units with which it is probably pre-endowed by heredity. This is a form of reprsentation which is produced by selecting certain items from a pre-set alphabet and transmitting the information in terms of this selection from the code. If we get to know something about this alphabet, which I think is embodied to some extent in the shapes of the cells in the brain, we should understand a great deal more about how we recognize shapes, how we read, how we teach children to read, how we see ourselves, shapes, faces and people."—*T. Z. Young, Professor of Anatomy, University College, London " Man and his future ".*

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The secrets of life

" We can expect three great periods in the future history of biology and medicine. The first is a continuation of the present one, that of molecular biology, which is still far from having run its course. The next great period I expect to come from the application of wave mechanics to biology. This period has already made most hopeful beginnings but may depend, for its full development, on progress still to be made in the parent science of physics. My feeling is that beyond all this lies a third period, which may depend, for its initiation, on hitherto unknown physical principles, or on a far advanced refinement of our present knowledge, which will then open the way to the urderstanding of the deepest prob'ems, the nature of life, how it originated and perfected itself."—*Dr. A. Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel Prize winner, Director of Research, Marine Biological Laboratories, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.*

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More ways than one . . .

"The best way of getting carbon monoxide into your blood is by smoking cigarettes. From the work we have done so far,it appears that whereas traffic policemen and people exposed to high concentrations of traffic might get 4 per cent saturation of their blood with carbon monoxide, it is very common to find somebody who smokes some 20 cigarettes a day having 8 per cent saturation."—*Dr. P. J. Lawther, Director, Medical Research Council Air Pollution Research Unit, London, in a WHO radio interview.*

THE INDUSTRIAL SCENE OF TAMILNAD

Tamilnad is known for its monuments—cultural and historical, holiday resorts, health resorts, beauty spots and verdant natural scenes.

Yet there is another more interesting and more enchanting scene—That is the Industrial Scene !

Big factories around sprawling cities of Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore and all over the State ; energetic workers moving around the factories in large numbers amidst humming and buzzing sound—All at once provide a splendid scene.

It speaks for the determined efforts of the people to move forward.

The new Government takes pride in helping the capital and labour in fostering this memorabe industrial scene for ever, paving the way for industrial peace and prosperity.

Visit Tamilnad and enjoy the novel experience which the industrial scene of Tamilnad provides.

Issued by

THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

WORKERS WELFARE

A nation may do without its millionaires and without its Capitalists, but a nation can never do without its labour.

—Mahatma Gandhi.

At the time of Independence, the Government inherited was a labour force utterly emaciated with extremely low wages, no security of job, and almost non-existent welfare measures. To-day, we have a labour force which is proud of its contribution to the industrial development of the country, enjoys the security of the job, lives in better houses, is sure of medical facilities and in case of accidents of adequate compensation for dependents. The worker's wages have increased, he has a share in the profits of the industry by way of bonus. Thus, from a mere-wage earner at the mercy of the industrialist he is gradually becoming a partner in industry.

This facsinating—and fast moving—transformation has taken place through the socialist regulation of the various phases of the life of an industrial worker. Let us begin with the wages.

Wages

One of the earliest measures, undertaken by the Government after independence was to pass in 1948, the Minimum Wages Act which prevented employers in certain fields from paying wages below a certain minimum when the labourers were not in a position to bargain collectively through organised Unions. Such workers included labour in Oil Mills, Tobacco, Lac and Mica Factories, Public Transport and tanneries, construction workers and women workers.

The State Governments were authorised to fix this amount according to local conditions. The Act thus ensured a minimum standard of living to the labourers and saved them from exploitation by unscrupulous employers.

In case of organised labour, the determination of wages in major industries has been left to the Trade Unions through the process of collective bargaining, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication, as this has been considered as the most suitable and democratic method of settling wage disputes in a democracy.

For this purpose, the Government has given encouragement to the Trade Union Movement under which strong Trade Unions with ever-increasing membership function all over the country. The number of Trade Unions has increased from about, 4,600 in 1951–52 to about 11,900 in 1963–64 with a total membership of 39 lakhs.

In the case of large industries, wage boards consisting of representatives of workers and employers have been set up. There were 19 such Wage Boards in 1966, embracing a major portion of the organised sector. The number of workers covered by the Wage Boards is nearly 4 million.

With the passing of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the labourers have become partner in industry by receiving a share from the profits. Since the passing of this Act, a number of industries have paid bonus to their employees. In Coal Mines where the labourers have to work inside the pits, they get as much as a third of their earnings as quarterly bonus.

Security against illness and accident

After the wages and bonus, the next important thing for a worker is security against various risks to which his job exposes him.

Accident or illness disables him from earning his daily bread and in most cases lands him into debits The Employees' State Insurance Scheme has, therefore been devised as an important step towards the social security of the workers. The scheme provides free and complete medical care. The medical facilities given to labourers include consultation, provision of medicines' hospital facilities and visit of the doctor at the house. By the end of 1965, medical care under this scheme was provided to 30·36 lakh of families of workers. Besides medical aid, the worker also receives some sickness benefit by way of cash. This is to the extent of about half the average wages he would have earned had he not fallen ill and been at work.

The insecurity of job under which women workers before Independence remained was still greater. Besides the risk of illness which they ran like male workers women

during the period of maternity had an additional disadvantage of losing the earnings at a time when they needed them the most. If she happened to be the bread-earner for the family, her dependents were equal sufferers. With the introduction of this scheme, a women worker is entitled to additional benefits by way of maternity benefits for 12 weeks. The rate of these benefits is 75 paise per day or the sickness benefit whichever is more. A cash payment of Rs. 24·24 lakhs was made as maternity benefit to women workers till the end of 1964–65.

The scheme also covers the risk from accident. If a worker who is insured under the scheme is injured during the course of work and permanently or temporarily disabled, he is entitled to receive cash benefit in instalments.

The amount distributed among the workers as disablement benefit came to Rs. 1·25 crores at the end of 1964–65.

Provident Fund

Steps have also been taken to provide for a carefree old age to those who have worked hard throughout their life by passing the Employees' Provident Fund Act in 1952.

Under this Act, all employees whose wages do not exceed Rs. 1,000 per month are eligible for the membership of the Fund. All that they have to do is to contribute at the rate of 6¼ per cent of their basic wages. An equal amount has to be contributed by the employers. This encourages thrift and adds to the earnings of the labour. After retirement from work, they can fall back on the accumulated balance of their provident fund.

The scheme has already been implemented in 32,181 industries and establishments. It covers more than 4,050,000 workers and the total amount of contribution comes to Rs. 710·70 crores since the inception of the scheme. Similarly, 1,286 coal mines are covered under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme which benefits as many as 450,000 workers.

The maximum hours of work have been fixed and the health, safety and welfare of the workers are ensured by law. Regular leave and holidays with pay are allowed to them from time to time. They cannot be forced to work for more than 48 hours in a week or 9 hours a day. They get at least half-an-hour's rest after working for five hours continuously. Mine workers do not work for more than 9 hours a day on the surface and 8 hours a day below the ground. The working hours for plantation workers have similarly been limited to 54 hours a week. Women and children cannot be sent inside the mines to work, or asked to work in the night.

A regular system of inspection of mines to ensure that working conditions are kept up to the standard has been instituted, so that the safety and health of the workers is ensured.

Entertainment and Recreation

To promote cultural and welfare activities among labourers and provide entertainment to them Labour Welfare Centres have been set up in all industrial centres. The workers now have facilities like canteens, creches, rest shelters, washing houses, drinking water booths, recreation clubs, etc. Whole-time Welfare Officers in all factories employing 500 workers or more are appointed for the purpose. These Welfare Centres also organize classes for sewing, knitting, embroidery, music and adult education in arts and crafts for labourers who can join these in spare time. Libraries and reading rooms are maintained in most of the centres. Films and other entertainment shows are regularly organised for the recreation of workers and their families.

Housing Schemes have been specially promoted by the Government to meet the needs of the working class.

The Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme serves those who do not earn more than Rs. 350 a month. Under this scheme, the Central Government provides for the construction of houses for industrial workers. By the end of December 1965, a sum of Rs. 63·77 crores was sanctioned for the construction of 179,458 houses. Out of these 154,933 houses have already been completed.

Under a similar scheme plantation labour receives 80 per cent of the cost of a house as loan. A sum of Rs. 40·64 lakhs was sanctioned for the construction of 1,825 houses for plantation workers by December 1965. Out of this 999 houses were completed.

Under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund and the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund houses are constructed for miners. By the end of the year 1965–66, as many as 36,578 houses and 33 barracks were completed and 11,037 houses and 90 barracks were in different stages of construction.

YOUTH MOVEMENT IN *Rural Areas*

An evaluation report on youth clubs in the rural areas has stated that, in the present context of reorientation of the community development programme and emphasis on intensive agricultural development, the role of youth in the villages has assumed significance. The report has also stressed that officials of block and panchayatiraj institutions should channelise the energies of youth in constructive developmental activities.

The report, prepared by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission, is based on a study undertaken in 1966 to ascertain the potentialities of youth clubs for promoting rural development programmes and factors which contribute to their successful functioning in the rural areas. The 200-page report is in the nature of case study of 11 youth clubs, one each from a State, selected in consultation with State Governments on the basis of their successful functioning and having specific economic programmes.

It has also been stated in the report that a definite policy at the State level should be formulated for activising youth club movement in rural areas.

The objective of the youth club programme in community development was to help youths in rural areas to enable them to function in an organised manner and encourage co-operative activities and team work. The guiding principle of the programme was "to learn by doing and to earn while learning".

Balanced programmes

The report says that two of the clubs, selected for the study, situated in Mysore and Orissa, had reported outstanding success in their activities. They had balanced programmes with attention having been paid equally to both economic and social activities. The two clubs also had the added advantage of energetic and enthusiastic leadership, besides assistance and support from block and panchayat agencies.

The report lists the activities undertaken by the eleven youth clubs, such as economic projects like kitchen gardening, group farming and poultry development, educational and cultural activities, including literary centres, sports and games and *bhajans* and *kirtans*, and community programmes like construction of roads, drains and schools.

The interests of the club members, the report says seemed to be sustained when the activities were more broad-based with some worthwhile economic projects. Although some clubs were quite enthusiastic in undertaking economic projects either on a group or on an individual basis, they were not successful because, in a few cases, the selection of projects was not properly made.

Membership

The report states that the most important bottleneck in the functioning of youth clubs was absent of a clear cut programme relating to the involvement of development agencies at the block and village levels as also of panchayat organisations. It had been found in the case of comparatively successful youth clubs that the association and degree of involvement of the block, panchayat and other agencies with their functioning was one of the primary reasons for their success. In some cases, says the report, multiplicity of agencies, none with complete responsibility, had been hampering the programmes. It was desirable that a single agency, charged with the responsibilities of co-ordinating and implementing youth activities, should function at the State level.

The clubs, on an average, had a membership of 38 during the year 1965-66. Four clubs, however, had a membership exceeding 50. Club members were not drawn equally from all castes and occupational groups in the villages. Richer cultivating classes seemed to dominate.

The task of increasing membership in the clubs of members of all groups and castes could be achieved, the report states, only through extension of liberal education.

The report points out that the decision by some States to abolish the post of social education organiser or to redesignate such an officer as panchayat officer has meant negligence of the task of initiation of the youths' and women's programmes. The education organiser could give proper orientation to the task of bringing the higher and lower castes and richer and weaker sections of the community together in one common task of developing and bettering their economic and social conditions.

Training in leadership

The report emphasises the need for maintenance of essential records by the clubs for helping in periodical assessment of their programmes. There was also need for giving suitable training in leadership, organisation and club projects to youth club members at the State level.

The progress of rural economy and society, the report adds, depends very much on the extent the youth community was activated, trained and enlightened. While formal education, both in general terms and in agriculture, may be the starting point in such a task, it was essential that rural youths were drawn into active participation in formation and running of local democratic institutions and also in undertaking worthwhile economic projects on individual and group basis.

The report points out that the applied nutrition programme which has been successful in a large number of States had also been due largely to the involvement of the youth and women members of the youth community.

The report recommends institutions of awards and incentives to clubs having successful record of work as this would foster a sense of competition and healthy rivalry among the clubs in different areas.

I AM ALCOHOL !

I am the greatest criminal in history. I have killed more men than have fallen in all the wars of the world. I have turned men into boutes. I have made millions of homes unhappy.

I have transported many ambitious youths into hopeless parasites. I destroy the weak and weaken the strong.

I make the wise man fool and trample the fool into his folly. The abandoned wife knows me ; the hungry children knows me.

I have worried millions and shall try to ruin millions more. I am alchohol !

—H. W. Gibson in "Boyology".

ANDAMANS BREATHE THE AIR OF PROGRESS

The winds of change have blown from the mainland to the Andaman and Nicobar islands. For the first time, the islanders elected their representative to the Lok Sabha in the last General Elections.

Despite the unfortunate past of having been a penal Settlement, the Andaman and Nicobar islands began to breathe the air of progress in the last two decades.

The Andaman and Nicobar group constitute some 200 islands, of which five are large closely connected ones. About 750 miles from the mainland, they form a land area of 2,500 square miles.

The population of the islands, according to the 1961 census, was 63,548 and present estimates place it at 75,000.

Population and economy

The tribal population of 14,122 according to the 1961 census, is composed of the friendly and short-statured Onges, the hostile Jarawas, the Negritos and the Nicobarese. In Little Andamans, 130 Onges are to be found, and a few families of Negritos live in southern Andamans. The Negritos are a very ancient race and might have probably occupied the whole of South-East Asia in pre-historic times. Some 500 Jarawas live in the dense forest of middle Andamans.

The Andaman tribes are on the verge of extinction, whilst the Nicobarese, who are believed to have come from Burma, have adjusted themselves to modern ways of life. The rest of the inhabitants range from the santhals from Ranchi to Tamils and Malayalees who are settled here at the rate of 500 every month.

The islands have vast timber resources, and the sea around abound in fish and other marine wealth. Plantation work, fishing, rearing pig, cultivation of food crops, as also of cocoanuts and arecanuts, are the main occupation of the inhabitants, in addition to organised exploitation of the forest wealth. The working force, according to the 1961 census, was about 31,000.

The islands are known as a "gold mine of timber". There is a large variety of timber from the Padauk—which compares well with superior teak varieties—to the bamboo. Plywood and match industries and saw mills have sprung up to exploit the timber wealth. The forest produce out-turn in 1965–66 was worth Rs. 97·56 lakhs and 20,843 tons of timber went for export. Cocoanut plantations cover over 4,000 acres.

Minerals

The islands are ideally suited for rubber plantation. It is believed that they may also abound in rich mineral wealth, including coal, iron, precious stones and commercially exploitable deposits of the nickel group of metals and flux grade limestone. In addition, they hold out prospects of striking oil and natural gas.

There is good scope for commercial exploitation of fish and other marine products, since the islands have a coastline of 1,200 miles with a fishable area of nearly 18,000 square miles. In 1965, 223,676 tonnes of fish was landed.

The total developmental outlay for the islands during the Third Plan was Rs. 979·32 lakhs. The largest share of this was devoted to transport and communications with an estimated Rs. 514 lakhs. For agricultural development the outlay was Rs. 253·07 lakhs, and for social services Rs. 132·89 lakhs. Development of minor ports claimed a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs.

Education and communications

In 1965–66, there were 121 educational institutions in the islands. Forty new primary schools were opened and thirty schools were converted into basic pattern schools. Six middle senior/Basic schools were also established. Port Blair has a Government High School. There are many middle and primary schools catering to various language categories of children.

Inter-island and Island-to-mainland transport has been an important problem and the establishment of proper communications was a long-felt need to speed up agricultural and industrial development. Water craft remains the main mode of inter-island communication.

There were 496 kms. of roads in 1965–66. Development schemes included building of new roads and the improvement of existing ones.

The islands have one of the most beautiful beaches in India which could be developed into a tourist spot. The sea, lush green forest, cocoanut palms and the long backwaters provide an enchanting setting. Carbyn's Cove, about five miles from Port Blair, is an ideal lagoon for boating and fishing, and a delightful bathing beach.

There are good tourist homes at Port Blair and Carbyn's Cove. The other tourist spots include the Chidaiatapu Caves near Port Blair, and the Rose Islands, where a zoological garden and an aviary are coming up.

BRAVE among the BRAVE

THE GALLANT ELEVEN

Major R. N. SETH.

The practice of honouring outstanding deeds of gallantry and valour of men of the Defence Services is recognised the world over. India instituted its own gallantry awards on gaining Independence.

The highest decoration for valour is the Param Vir Chakra, which is given for " most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self sacrifice, in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air".

So far, eleven Armymen have been decorated with Param Vir Chakra, eight of them posthumously.

Major Som Nath Sharma of the Kumaon Regiment was the first PVC winner. On a cold morning, early in November 1947, Major Sharma, holding an important position in the Kashmir Valley was outnumbered seven to one. But by his gallant leadership, Major Sharma inspired his men who fought the raiders tenaciously for several hours and averted imminent danger to Srinagar. Major Sharma's last message was: " I shall not withdraw an inch, but will fight to the last man and the last round". He lived up to his determination and made the supreme sacrifice.

Some six months later, it was a young 2nd Lieutenant (now Major), R. R. RANE of Engineers, whose grim determination and tireless energy earned him the Param Vir Chakra. The scene was the advance of Indian troops from Nowshera to Rajauri. Unperturbed by enemy mortar and machine gun fire he achieved an almost impossible task of clearing single-handed a formidable road block of five big pine trees surrounded by mines.

On the third page of the Param Vir Chakra' Book is inscribed the name of CHM Piru Singh of Rajputana Rifles. He was given the task of capturing a hill feature in the Tithwal area. Undaunted by heavy casualties, he rallied the rest of his men and pressed forward with unflinching determination. Piru Singh himself was injured. But he not only reached the top of the hill feature but leapt straight into the enemy gun position bayoneting the crew. Blood gushing from his wounds, he cleared one after another three more enemy bunkers. " He left for the rest of his comrades a unique example of single handed bravery and determined courage."

In the same Tithwal area, L/Nk Karam Singh (now Subedar) of the Sikh Regiment wrote a new chapter of glory. He beat back eight attacks on his outpost. His ammunition running out, he crawled from trench to trench inspiring his comrades to carry on the fight. He challenged the attackers to a hand to hand grenade fight. " He was an inspiration to his comrades and a terror to the enemy."

The year 1948 was coming to a close when Naik Jadunath Singh of the Rajput Regiment bagged the fifth and the last PVC of the J & K operations. He turned an impending defeat into victory. With most of his comrades dead or wounded he deployed the remainder of his small force with such skill that he beat back 500 raiders.

It was in December again but 13 years later. The setting was quite different. It was in the cause of world peace and in the service of the United Nations that Capt. Gurbachan Singh Salaria of the Gorkha Regiment gave his life and won his PVC, in Congo's secessionist province of Katanga. With a small force of sixteen Gorkhas Capt. Salaria charged a much superior enemy killing forty of them and destroying two armoured cars.

October 1962 and came the Chinese aggression. And it was the turn of a second Gorkha Officer, Major Dhan Singh Thapa. He showed " cool courage and the most conspicuous fighting qualities and leadership in the highest traditions of our Army". Thapa and his gallant jawans twice repulsed attacks by the Chinese who were in overwhelming strength. The Chinese attacked again and this time with tanks. Thapa and his comrades fought to the last killing several of the enemy until Thapa was eventually overpowered.

Far to the east, Subedar Joginder Singh of the Sikh Regiment was locked in a grim battle in NEFA about the same time. He kept his nerve against very heavy odds. When the situation became impossible, the Bahadur Subedar fixed bayonet to his rifle as did his remaining comrades and charged into the advancing Chinese, killing many of them before he and his men were overpowered.

And, now, the last of the heroes of 1962, Major Shaitan Singh, who won for his Kumaon Regiment the second PVC, posthumously. His positions at Razangla in the Chushul sector at a height of about 17,000 feet, came under heavy artillery fire which was followed by Chinese infantry attacks in overwhelming strength, wave upon wave. His supreme courage and determination sustained the morale of his men and inspired them to fight gallantly to the last man, inflicting heavy casualities on the enemy.

September 1965; CQMH Abdul Hamid and Lt. Col. A. B. Tarapore. Those household names, the tenth and eleventh of the Param Vir Chakra winners made the supreme sacrifice to uphold the nation's honour.

Hav. Abdul Hamid of the Grenadiers was in command of a detatchment of 106 mm. recoilless guns at a vital point in the Khemkaran sector. He swiftly moved his jeep to the enemy's flank through a hail of artillery and tank shells. Within moments his deadly aim had knocked out two Patton tanks. Undeterred by the enemy fire, he was getting ready to hit a third Patton when his own jeep was struck by a high explosive shall killing him on the spot. His example inspired not only his own unit but a whole Division.

Lt.-Col. Tarapore of the Armoured Crops was given the task of delivering the main armoured thrust for the capture of Phillora on the Sialkot sector. Lt.-Col. Tarapore who was in the lead defied a sudden enemy counter-attack, and not only held his ground but went on to attack Phillora. Despite his injuries he again led his regiment to capture several targets and his men destroyed nearly 60 enemy tanks at a cost of nine of their own.

GLORY to the Gallant XI.

Indraprastha—The first Indian Built Diesel Shunters

The recent commissioning of the first Indian-built diesel shunting locomotive Indraprastha at Chittaranjan marks yet another significant step towards modernisation in the Indian Railways. About 150 diesel shunters. it is expected, will be manufactured in the next five years.

The import content of these shunters willl be progressively reduced from 47 per cent, in terms of value, in the case of the first 32 shunters to a mere 8 per cent from the 150th shunter onwards. Some of the imported items will be diesel engine, gear box, transmission and cooling equipment.

The first five shunters will be fitted with Voith transmission of German design. From the sixth, the shunters will have Suri transmission, an invention by an Indian engineer.

With the increase in rail traffic on the main line, the work load in yards, in the form of shunting for marshalling and forming trains, has greatly increased. This work is now largely undertaken by steam locomotives of different types, for, owing to difficult foreign exchange position, the railways have not been able to employ suitable diesel shunting locomotives even in selected areas.

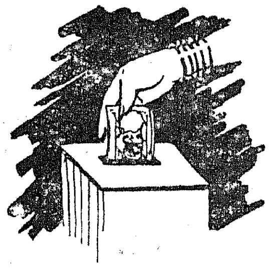
With the use of the new shunter, shunting operations are expected to improve considerably.

The shunter can also be used for running light services on the main line. It is capable of achieving a maximum speed of 39 km. per hour in shunting operations and 65 km. per hour on main line service.

Designed for use or broad gauge, the shunter will also be suitable for service in the yards of steel and other plants as well as port railways, to which quite a number will be supplied as production progresses. This will result in substantial savings in foreign exchange.

The cost of the shunter manufactured at the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, estimated at about Rs. 12 lakhs, compares favourably with the landed cost of similar imported locomotives.

The Chittaranjan Locomotive Works now manufacture four different classes of steam locomotives as well as DC and AC electric locomotives. Since turning out the first steam locomotive in 1950, CLW has manufactured a total of 2,093 steam locomotives, 21 DC electric locomot ives and 118 AC electric locomotives.



Highlights on Small Savings Movement

STAR-STUDDED SMALL SAVINGS CULTURAL SHOW

A feast of music, dance and drama by the leading film artistes and play-back singers marked the Cultural Show at the Nehru Stadium, Madras, on 25th February 1968 conducted in the presence of Thiru C.N. Annadurai, Chief Minister of Tamilnad and presented by Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, M.L.A., Vice-Chairman, State Advisory Board for Small Savings, for promotion of small savings collections. Sardar Ujjal Singh, Governor of Madras, presided over the function and Sardarini Ujjal Singh distributed trophies to the patrons of Small Savings Scheme and the artistes who participated in the show.

The show started with a prayer by Thiru T. M. Soundararajan, cine play back singer. It was followed by a musical number presented by Thiru K. V. Mahadevan and Party. Thiru T. M. Soundararajan, Thirumathi P. Susila, Thiru A. L. Raghavan and Thirumathi L. R. Eswari rendered popular cine hits.

The next item was a Bharatha Natyam (Nadanamadinar) by cine artiste Selvi Jothi Lakshmi. It was followed by 'Paattu Vathiyar'— a comical piece enacted by cine artistes Thiru Muthuraman and Selvi Rama Prabha. A Bharatha Natyam by Selvi Jayalalitha, a dance piece by Selvi Nirmala, a Mohini Aattam by Selvi Hemamalini, a sequence from 'Edhir Neechal' enacted by Thirumathi Sowcar Janaki, Thiru Srikanth and Thiru I. S. Ramachandran, a sequence from 'Mind is a monkey' by the commedy pair Thiru Cho and Thirumathi Manorama, 'Naveena Sakunthala' a farce by Thiru A. V. M. Rajan, Thirumathi Pushpalatha and Thirumathi M. Saroja and 'Tamil Engal Ooyir' by Thiru S. S. Rajendran and Party were the other interesting items of the show.

The variety entertainment concluded with the light music by Thiru M. S. Viswanathan and party in which Thiru T. M. Soundararajan, Thirumathi P. Susila, Thiru Chandrababu and others rendered favourite songs.

Thiru A. L. Srinivasan, Vice-President, Film Federation of India and Chairman of the Cultural Programme Sub-Committee was the man who stood behind the show and its success. Thiru Gemini Ganesh, Thirumathi Savithri Ganesh, Thirumathi Vijayakumari and Thirumathi Santhiya also participated in the show by introducing the stars and their programmes to the audience.

Earlier, Thiru N. S. Bhat, Director, Binny and Company and Mr. F. Korner, Danish Consul and Managing Director, East Asiatic Company presented cheques for Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 90,000 respectively to the Chief Minister for investments in Small Savings.

The Governor of Madras, in his presidential address stressed the importance and role of the Small Savings movement for building up resources for the plans. The Chief Minister of Madras in his speech appealed to the public to make the scheme a great success in Madras. He wished that Madras State should stand first in the country in achieving the target. He also congratulated the artistes for their benevolent gesture in participating in the Cultural Show. The Vice-Chairman, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, M.L.A. proposed vote of thanks.

SAVINGS CAMPAIGN IN CITY COLLEGES

Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, M.L.A., Vice-Chairman, State Advisory Board for Small Savings inaugurated a Moible Post Office at the premises of the S.I.E.T. College for Women on 17th February 1968 to intensify Small Savings investments among students.

While formally inaugurating the Mobile Post Office, Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, emphasised the need for cultivating savings habit particularly among the student community. He requested all the student to invest regularly in Small Savings.

About 50 students and staff of the college opened Post Office Savings Bank accounts and the amount was handed over to Thiru M. G. Ramachandran by the Student-President. Earlier, a sum of Rs. 18,000 was presented to the Vice-Chairman, towards investments in Small Savings on behalf of some companies in the City. Thiru M. G. Ramachandran promised to donate Rs. 5,000 to the College.

Thiru Basheer Ahamed Syed, former Judge of the High Court and the founder of the College presided. Thirumathi Rajam Krishnan, Principal, welcomed the chief guest. Selvi Suseela Samuel, Student-President of the College, proposed vote of thanks.

A similar function was also held at Sri Theagaraya College, Madras on 21st February 1968. Thiru Arivazhagan, M.L.C., while inaugurating the North Madras Mobile Post Office stressed the necessity to inculcate thrift habit by students from the Childhood.

SAVE FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE

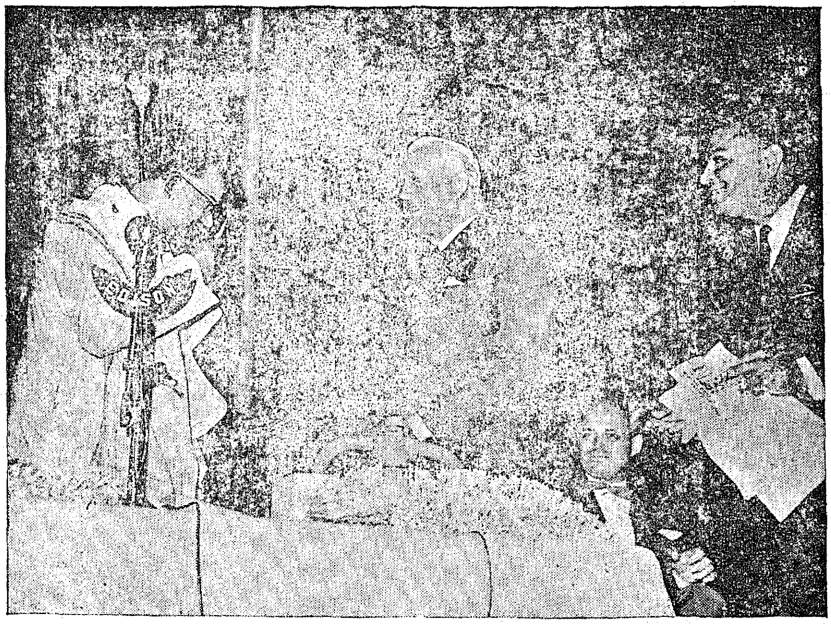
C. R. RAMAKRISHNAN

Larsen and Toubro Limited which plays a leading role in several of the key sectors of the nation's economy also lends its helping hand in the Small Savings Movement.

All of you may be aware that the Small Savings Movement launched by the Government of Madras has its objective to mobilise savings from all the available sources on voluntary basis making it in turn available for the economic development of the State.

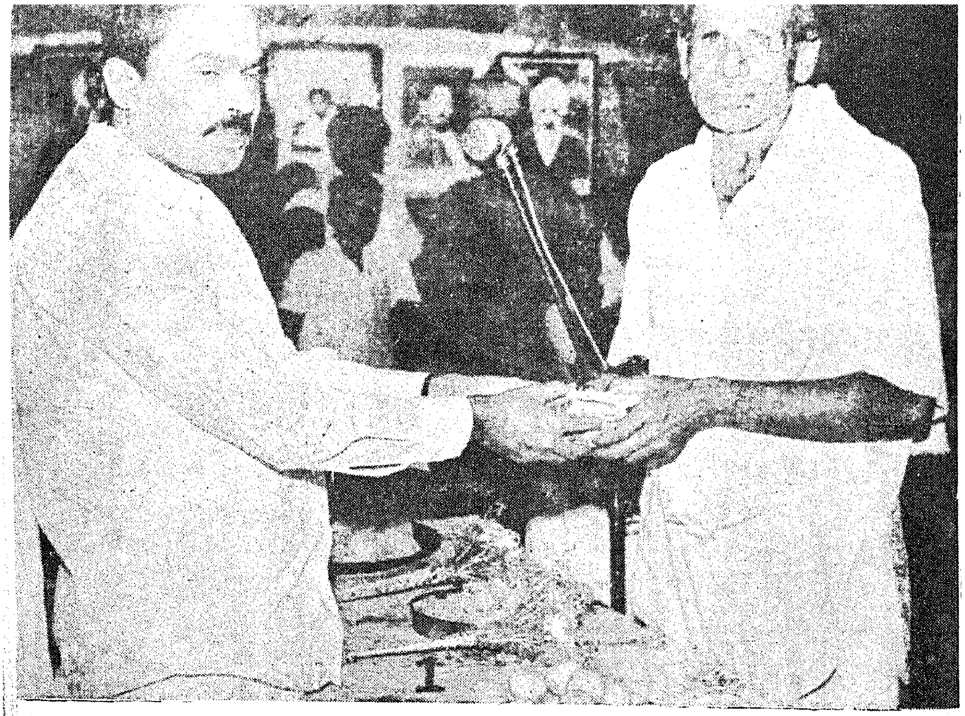
Larsen and Toubro Limited on its part has been investing in Small Savings Securities sizable amounts in the past. It started in 1965–66 with an investment of Rs. 2 lakhs from the Provident Fund accumulations of the employees of Madras. During the year 1966–67 also a similar amount was invested. In the current financial year 1967–68 this amount has been increased to Rs. 2,25,000 since the contribution of the employees has also risen to this extent. The first instalment of Rs. 1,25,000 has been invested during October 1967 by handing over the cheque to Thiru M. G. Ramachandran, Vice-Chairman, State Advisory Board for Small Savings and the second instalment of Rs. 1 lakh is now being handed over by cheque to the Government of Madras.

I am indeed happy to have the honour of handing this cheque over at this function particularly in view of the fact that this amount will be utilised by the State Government in its irrigation, power and industrial projects and thereby contributing to the economic development of the Madras State.

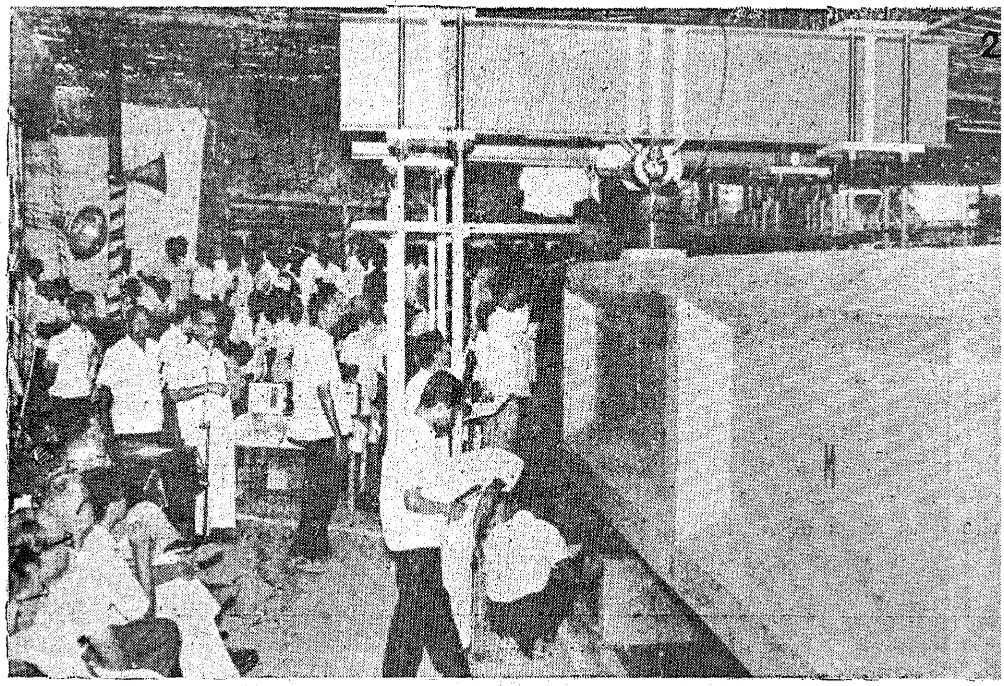


Photograph taken during the inauguration of the new factory of Audco India Ltd., during which time a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh was presented by its Chairman, Mr. H. Holck-Larsen to Thiru V. R. Nedunchezhian, Minister for Education and Industries, for investment in the small savings securities. The cheque was drawn on Provident Fund accumulations of L. & T. Employees for investment in small savings securities.

Photograph shows (from L to R) Thiru V. R Nedunchezhiyan, Mr. H. Holck-Larsen, Chairman, Larsen & Toubro Limited, Mr. Gunnar Hansen, Director, Larsen & Toubro Limited and Mr. C. R. Ramakrishnan, Regional Manager, Larsen & Toubro Limited, Madras and Director, Audco India Ltd.



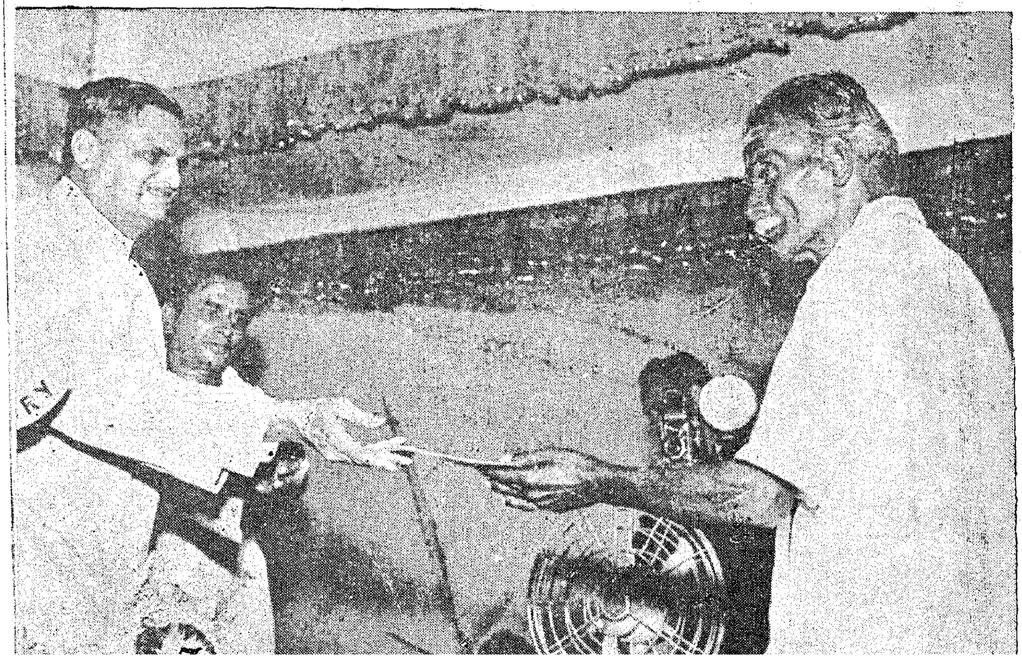
Thiru Kuppana Gounder, President, Kathapalli Panchayat, presenting a purse containing Rs. 4,051 to Thiru M. Muthuswamy, Minister for Local Administration towards the Namakkal Government Arts College Fund at a function held at Mudalaipatti Village on 10th March 1968.



A load test to destruction on a precast R.C.C. Beam using twisted steel was carried out at Gadilam Bridge site at Cuddalore on 15th March 1968 by the Highways Department.

Since twisted steel has high yield and bond strengths enabling adoption of higher working stresses, using this for R.C.C. work in the place of the usual mild steel rods has become a new technique in bridge construction.

Twisted steel has been used for the first time in a bridge in this country for the bridge across Gadilam river at Cuddalore in South Arcot District. The load test to destruction will give an opportunity to test the performance of the material on a completed structure.



Thiru Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation, laid the foundation stone for the New Administrative Building of the Madras Dock Labour Board, Madras on 31st March 1968. Thiru S. Madhavan, Minister for Law, Labour and Co-operation, presided.

The Scheme of Extension of Medical Facilities to the families of the members of staff and the reserve pool workers was also inaugurated on the occasion.

Thiru Jaisukhlal Hathi is seen presenting a Medical facilities card to a worker.